



THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,669

WEDNESDAY 22 JULY 1998



(1R50P) 45p

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COMMENT PLUS ARTS FASHION

3,000 schools threatened with closure

TEN PER cent of all schools will be placed in a new category of poor schools and given a deadline of a year to improve, ministers said yesterday.

At present, 600 schools have been declared failing by school inspectors and face closure unless they turn themselves around within two years.

A further 2,400 - around 10 per cent of all schools in England and Wales - have been found by inspectors to have serious weaknesses.

Stephen Byers, the school standards minister, said yesterday that the latter must turn themselves around within a year or they would be declared failing. He announced new measures to require local authorities to support schools with serious weaknesses and help them to draw up action plans with targets.

Ministers believe that early intervention is vital to prevent school failure. New guidance for local authorities says that they should step in after only six months if they believe a school is failing to make progress.

Under legislation before Parliament, councils will be able to appoint extra governors and withdraw the school's power to run its own budget.

All schools in the new category will be revisited by inspectors. Those with the worst reports will receive visits from inspectors from the Office for Standards in Education which will also target those local authorities which have a poor track record in helping struggling schools.

Any school found to have se-

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

rious weaknesses will be monitored by Her Majesty's Inspector, perhaps once or twice a year. All schools placed in the new category will face a further full inspection after two years.

Mr Byers said: "Today we recognise a new category of school - those with serious weaknesses. Our proposed action will ensure that there is early intervention to prevent seriously weak schools drifting into failure. Local education authorities must provide their schools with the support and guidance to turn themselves around."

"As we expect failing schools to be restored to health within two years, it should be possible for schools with serious weaknesses to do so within a much shorter period."

He said that the previous government's inspection regime had treated all schools in the same way. Schools that were performing well should be given more freedom and the Government was already considering "lighter touch" inspections for them, he said.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, backed the need to take action over poor schools but opposed the imposition of an artificial deadline.

"The circumstances surrounding schools with serious weaknesses are infinitely variable and the length of time it takes to get out of that category must inevitably vary,"

Doug McAvoy, general sec-

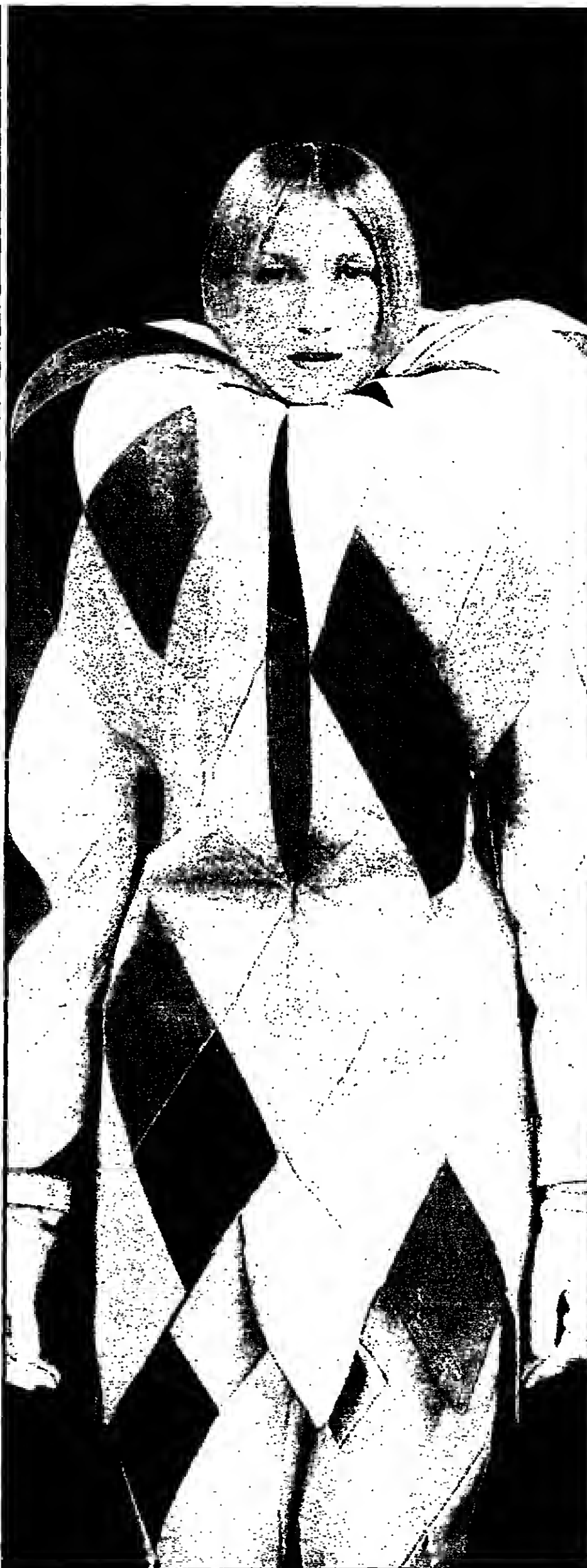
retary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "Schools with serious weaknesses have those weaknesses only in some aspects of their provision and they run alongside some excellent performance. If a school has the threat of possible closure looming over it, it is in danger of losing those excellent teachers and that will make it even more difficult for it to turn around."

Schools may be declared to have serious weaknesses for a number of reasons: poor national test or exam results, a weak head, pupils who are making slow progress in the basics and unsatisfactory teaching in a quarter or more of lessons.

The new rules may help the Government to deal with a category of schools which have been causing increasing concern. An Audit Commission report earlier this year highlighted schools in leafy suburbs which were able to coast along because their middle class intake ensured that they achieved reasonable examination results.

The Government is taking new powers to close failing schools which do not improve and to reopen them under new management. As many as 25 schools failed by inspectors may close in September because they have failed to meet the new two-year deadline.

Ministers have abandoned the policy of "naming and shaming" failing schools after criticism from teacher unions and some headteachers who have succeeded in turning round poor schools.



Harlequin 'haute couture' from the autumn/winter 1998/99 collection by the Dutch designers Victor and Rolf, showing in Paris yesterday

Peter Macdiarmid

Home Office says police patrols don't catch crooks

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

MANY OF the high-profile crime-fighting initiatives of recent years have been a failure, according to Home Office research released yesterday. The controversial study coincided with a series of announcements by the Home Secretary, including a new £250m Crime Reduction Strategy.

Jack Straw said the new programme would only channel funds into schemes which had been shown to have a measurable impact on rates of crime.

In its detailed research the Home Office examined the value of past crime reduction projects, including populist schemes such as Neighbourhood Watch and extra "bobbies on the beat". It found that such measures can be "ineffective".

Instead, Mr Straw's new programme of initiatives will spend money on "early intervention" to tackle the social causes which lead young people into crime. Resources will also be concentrated on targeting known crime "hot spots", reducing repeat attacks on victims and stopping repeat offenders.

Announcing the results of the Home Office Comprehensive Spending Review to Parliament, Mr Straw said the police would be given an extra £1.24bn over three years. A further £260m will be spent on expanding prison capacity in the same period and the Probation Service will get an extra £127m, enabling it to carry out new responsibilities like extended supervision of sex offenders.

In total, the Home Office

budget is being extended by £3bn over three years.

The strategy will be overseen by a ministerial group bringing together the Home Secretary, the Attorney General, the Lord Chancellor and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury. Mr Straw said the group and its £250m budget represented "the largest commitment of its kind ever made in the world".

He said: "For many years governments concentrated too much on the consequences of crime to the detriment of its causes. But we can only make a long-term impact on crime

and disorder by concentrating on both."

The new strategy was based largely on the findings of a three-year Home Office research project. It highlighted the ineffectiveness of community policing, where officers attempt to build better relations with the public to improve the flow of information about crime. Neighbourhood Watch was found to flourish only in low-crime areas. The Home Office concluded that it was unlikely that the schemes "have had a marked effect in preventing crime nationally".

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Nanny charged with murdering baby girl

BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

AN AUSTRALIAN nanny will stand trial at the Old Bailey after being charged with the murder of the baby Caroline Jongen. Louise Sullivan had previously been charged with causing grievous bodily harm to the child at the Jongen family home in north London earlier this year.

When the 26-year-old from Sydney appeared before Clerkewell magistrates in north London yesterday, that charge was dropped and replaced by one of murder. The case was committed for trial at the Old



Sullivan: Old Bailey trial

Bailey at a date to be decided. Conditional bail was renewed, but with the additional requirement that Ms Sullivan does not seek employment caring for children aged 16 or

under while waiting for her trial.

At an inquest in London on 21 April, a pathologist, Dr Freddy Patel, testified that Caroline was probably a victim of "shaken baby syndrome". The baby was admitted to hospital on 17 April and died five days later when her life-support machine was switched off.

The case follows those of Louise Woodward, found guilty last year of the manslaughter of Matthew Eappen while working as an au pair, and of Helen Stacey who was jailed for life on Monday after being found guilty of shaking Joseph Mackin to death on 13 May last year.

Gawd 'elp us! Alf Garnett is resurrected

BY PAUL MCCANN

this autumn after six years in retirement.

ITV is to air a six-part series called *The Thoughts of Chairman Alf* in September, the last work of the scriptwriter Johnny Speight, the creator of *The Death of Us Do Part* who died earlier this month. The series is a

coup for ITV which has taken the character from the BBC.

The BBC aired the original sitcom to audiences of over 16 million when it was broadcast from 1965 to 1972. The BBC resurrected Alf, broadcasting *In Sickness and In Health* from 1985 to 1992. *The Thoughts of Chairman Alf* take the form of monologues in front of a theatre

audience as if the splenetic Alf was on a lecture tour. Garnett, played as ever by Warren Mitchell, gives his views on all the old topics, such as the monarchy and some very Nineties concerns, including the environment and animal rights.

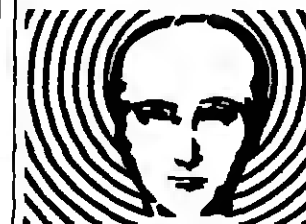
The series was filmed six months ago and was inspired by a tour of Australia by the same

name taken by Mitchell in 1968. ITV had the idea of renewing the format when *An Audience With...* starring Warren Mitchell and part-written by Speight, attracted a big audience last year.

"Alf Garnett is the most important comic character in British television history," said an ITV spokeswoman. "He was

an absolute legend, it would have been sacrilegious not to use the programme."

Speight died of cancer at the beginning of this month at the age of 78. When his comic creation appeared on screens in the Sixties it was the first time issues of politics, race and sex had been aired for a mass audience.



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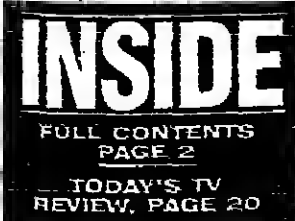
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HOME NEWS
A mentally ill patient murdered his wife 24 hours after being sent home from hospital

HOME NEWS
A task force says urban bars should be allowed to serve drinks all day and all night

FOREIGN NEWS
P W Botha ordered the bombing of a church HQ while South African president, it was claimed

BUSINESS
The chief executive of the Liffe futures and options exchange in London has resigned

SPORT
Jacques Villeneuve, the F1 world champion, is quitting Williams to drive in the US



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Low sex drive and nearly extinct. Can cloning save the panda from itself?

BY TERESA POOLE
in Peking

CHINESE SCIENTISTS are hoping to clone the giant panda, in the latest effort to save the much-loved species from extinction. An ambitious project will attempt to produce a cub by planting the nucleus of a panda cell into an egg from another species. The embryo would then be implanted into the female of the second species, which could in theory give birth to a panda cub.

Chen Dayuan, the project leader at the Chinese Academy of Science's laboratory of fertilisation biology in Peking, explained why he was attempting the more difficult "trans-species" cloning rather than the "intra-species" method used successfully to clone Dolly the sheep. With only 1,000 pandas left in the world, it is not feasible to use panda eggs, which cannot easily be harvested from living females. The latter are also very infertile, with oestrus occurring only once a year, and only 10 per cent of females actually coming into season.

Sun Qingyuan, one of the project's researchers, yesterday said the team had identified potential host animal species, but that this information was secret. Asked if panda cloning was really a possibility, Mr Sun said: "No one knows. We are trying to do the work of panda cloning, but we don't know when we will have success."

The project started after the Chinese scientists read reports about Dolly the sheep, cloned in 1996 at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh. Mr Sun said the team was following research in the United States on "trans-species" cloning. So far, the Chinese project is still at a preliminary stage.

Mr Sun said the team had successfully taken a mouse cell nucleus and transplanted it into a rabbit egg. Experiments had produced a blastocyst (the early stage of an embryo) which had started to divide. But the project had yet successfully to implant an embryo into a rabbit, or produce a baby mouse.

"After we have finished doing the work with the small animals, we will start work with the panda cells, hopefully in the second half of the year," Mr Sun said.

"We will take cells from a panda and transfer the nucleus into a denuded egg from another species. We still have not decided which is a good species to use... We have several candidates, but this is secret. The gestation period should be similar, about 80 days."

He said they would definitely use a mammal, and "it should be a big animal". The cub would be a pure panda as all the genetic information would have come from the panda cell nucleus.

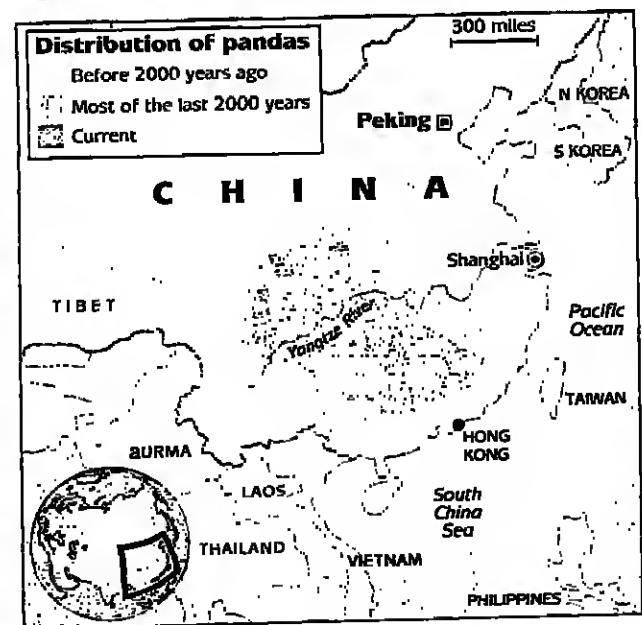
The possible cloning of giant pandas is only the latest attempt by China artificially to improve the animal's chances of survival. Last August, scientists at the Laboratory of Genetic and Embryo Engineering of Endangered Wildlife in Sichuan province achieved the world's first test-tube *in-vitro* fertilisation of a panda egg. Unfortunately, high carbon-dioxide levels in a faulty incubator killed the egg after 10 hours.

The Sichuan laboratory now plans to do further experiments on other large rare animals, such as the black bear, which are more easily available than the giant panda. If these are successful, eggs will be taken from living pandas who have lost the ability to bear cubs. The difficulty



A giant panda, one of just 1,000 estimated by China to be left in the wild

Heather Angel



will be to find a panda female to incubate the test-tube embryo. China estimates that there are only about 1,000 giant pandas left, most of whom live in the western provinces of Sichuan and Gansu. Poaching for the skins and, most crucially, the destruction of the animal's bamboo habitat have taken a huge toll on the population in recent years. Since 1949, one-third of the forest cover in Sichuan has been felled. The lack of bamboo "corridors" also means that pandas have been living in isolated groups

containing as few as 10 members, which are then weakened through inbreeding.

China is stepping up efforts to restore the panda's natural habitat, but scientists are increasingly attracted to a more high-tech approach. Some Western scientists have criticised this trend, saying that long-term survival will depend on basic environmental protection, not on laboratory experiments.

Mother Nature also seems to have stacked the odds against panda conception. They have a notoriously low sex-drive, and

prefer to spend 14 hours a day munching bamboo. The females are fertile just once a year, for about 72 hours, and the males have a small organ and a low sperm count.

China has already invested enormous effort into artificial breeding programmes in zoos, but with very limited success. More than 90 per cent of zoo males have proved unable to mate. Artificial insemination is routinely practised but since 1953 only 24 captive females have given birth.

Pandas are also clumsy mothers, with a habit of squashing the tiny cub in its early days. A new-born cub weighs only around 4.5oz, and is so underdeveloped it is more like a foetus. It has no sight, hearing or speech, and is usually suckled for a full six months. China, well aware of international interest in the protection of the giant panda, has scored some notable successes. A panda who gives birth to twins will normally abandon one of them. At Peking Zoo, after twins were born in 1992 through artificial insemination, keepers for the first time succeeded in hand-rearing a cub without it drinking its mother's milk. Yong Liang spent his first five months with humans. By the time he could survive on normal food, he had learnt to imitate his human keepers, and was terrified when introduced to another panda.

THE DOLLY EFFECT

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
and MICHAEL MCCARTHY

IF THE Chinese are successful in the trans-species cloning of a giant panda it would mark a world first. No one has yet succeeded in cloning an embryo from one species and fooling another into providing a womb in which it can grow.

Separate parts of the process have been achieved, so theoretically it should be possible. But experts were doubtful yesterday. Dr Robin Lovell-Badge, head of the laboratory of developmental genetics at the National Institute for Medical Research, said cloning mechanisms were still little understood. "It's an idea but I would be cautious," he said.

To succeed, the Chinese scientists would need to combine two procedures. First, they would have to repeat the process achieved with Dolly the sheep, by cloning a giant panda from an adult cell. This would involve taking the nucleus of the cell and placing it in an egg of another species - probably a bear - which had the nucleus removed.

To overcome the likelihood that the altered embryo would be rejected by the uterus of its intended mother, the next stage would involve growing the resulting embryo in the test tube until the eight-cell stage and then mixing it with an unaltered embryo from the mother bear to form a chimera.

This technique was successfully used a decade ago by a Dutch team to fool sheep into giving birth to goats and goats into giving birth to sheep. The resulting animals were a genetic mix of sheep and goats. However, it might be possible to produce a pure example of a species by careful mixing of the embryos.



Dolly and Mr Jefferson, a calf cloned in Virginia, US

In its first few days, an embryo divides three times, doubling the number of cells and halving their size each time. When an eight-cell sheep embryo is mixed with a four-cell goat embryo, the smaller cells of the sheep tend to migrate to the middle forming the foetus while the larger cells of the goat migrate to the outside forming the placenta. The embryo can then be implanted into a goat, and the uterus will accept the goat placenta and nourish the embryo until it is born as a sheep.

Dr Harry Griffin, assistant director of the Roslin Institute, Edinburgh, where

Dolly the sheep was cloned, said he was not aware of any attested case of cloning between different species.

"The current belief is that across species, the egg would probably not implant properly. The embryo would be rejected," he said.

Stuart Chapman, International Conservation Officer for the World Wide Fund for Nature and Britain's leading expert on the giant panda, said: "This is just going to divert resources away from the field, where they are most needed... If the giant panda is going to survive, it will be in the wild and not in some test-tube in some laboratory."

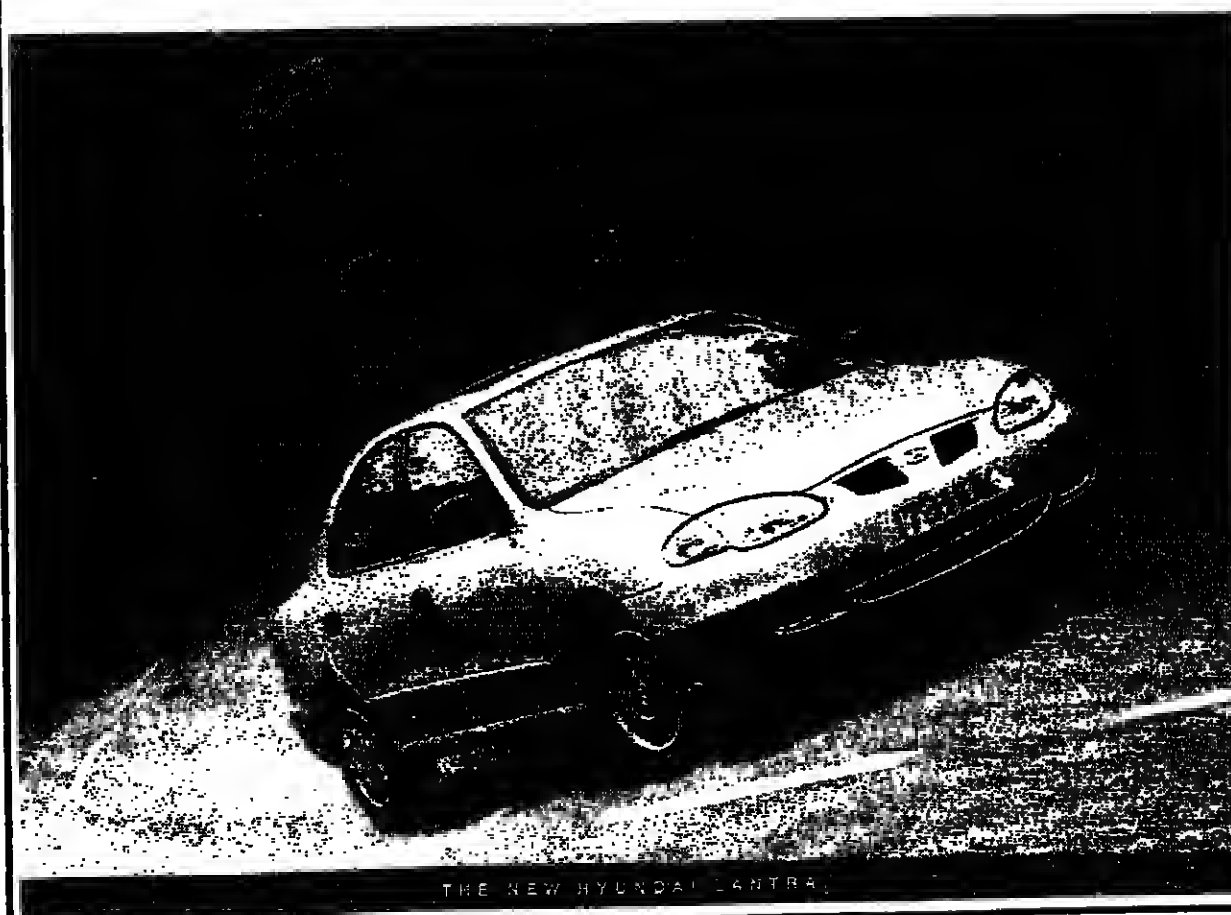
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Girl violence on the increase

TEENAGE girls will commit more acts of violence against others than teenage boys in 10 years' time, according to a study which says 80 per cent of girls have been involved in fights.

The dark side of girl power means that young women are increasingly turning to violence because they feel they are given more respect if they are able to take care of themselves and put other girls in their place.

Punching, kicking and "bussing" their opponents was becoming more common but girls do not see that their femininity is compromised by such traits, said Antoinette Hardy, speaking at the Psychology Postgraduate Affairs Group

BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

conference at Derby University. Instead, they see it as a way of asserting their independence and maintaining their image.

Ms Hardy told the psychologists that the number of girls imprisoned for violence against the person had gone up by more than 40 per cent 1991-96. Projections to 2008 suggest more teenage girls aged 14-17 will be imprisoned for acts of violence than adolescent boys.

Ms Hardy interviewed 40 female college students aged 14-18 from the Midlands and found four fifths had been involved in at least one physical fight. The vast majority were against people who were not members of

their own family. Girls reported punching, kicking, using baseball bats and even "glassing" their opponent and said that such behaviour was expected of them.

Only a quarter of them expressed regret or remorse or guilt after the fight, with 15 per cent saying that it made them feel happy or high as a result of fighting. "These actions were very much male-orientated behaviour rather than traditional female behaviour," said Ms Hardy. "I think it is indicative of the social change over the last two decades where women are realising they do not have to play a subservient role but can be independent. They do not wish to become male but emulate some male behaviour."

"These were not girls who wanted to look butch. They were very ordinary, pretty females, traditional-looking girls who want to protect their image."

Several of the girls interviewed cited the need to be able to take care of themselves, "to protect their image" and "to prove themselves better than the rest" as the main reasons for not only their own aggressive and sometimes violent behaviour but also for the increase in adolescent female fighting in general.

"In many cases, if being assertive or verbally aggressive fails, they are quite willing to resort to physical violence to achieve their objectives," said Ms Hardy.

Trainee sent home patient who killed

A MENTALLY ILL patient murdered his wife only 24 hours after being sent home from hospital by a junior doctor two weeks into her psychiatric training, an inquiry has found.

A health authority yesterday admitted "serious inadequacies" in the care of Peter Horrod from Norfolk who battered his disabled wife Brenda, 60, with a hammer, cut her throat and then suffocated her with a pillow in May 1996.

He had been admitted to the James Paget Hospital at Gorleston, Norfolk, after taking an overdose only four days after leaving a psychiatric hospital. But he was sent home in a taxi at 2.30am when a junior doctor decided that it was not necessary to readmit him.

In the early hours of the next morning, Horrod killed his wife whom he had cared for since she suffered a brain tumour

By GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

eight years earlier. A volunteer carer who was staying the night at the Horrods' home because of her concern for the couple, woke up to witness the killing.

Horrod, a painter and decorator, was ordered to be detained indefinitely under the Mental Health Act in December 1995 after admitting manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility. A psychiatrist told the court that Horrod was pathologically depressed.

The decision to send Horrod home was made by Dr Louise Santori, a trainee GP who was on a three month psychiatric placement at the hospital. The report, commissioned by Norfolk Health, the east Norfolk health authority, said Dr Santori

had made no attempt to contact the on-duty consultant psychiatrist, whose advice would have been readily available.

"The panel's view was that, had the consultant on duty been contacted, he would have said that Peter should have been at least admitted overnight until a full assessment could be carried out," the report said.

Poor record keeping, lack of planning to ensure monitoring of patients once they were discharged, and inadequate liaison with other agencies meant that information was not always exchanged between clinical staff.

The report contains 15 recommendations, which includes giving junior hospital doctors who undertake psychiatric placements appropriate training in risk assessment.

David Walker, chief executive of Norfolk Health, said he

recognised the gravity of the report and the seriousness of its findings.

"The report highlights a number of serious inadequacies in the services Peter Horrod received from the NHS," he said. "We recognise the gravity of its findings and the implications for the care of mentally ill patients."

Horrod's son, John 31 said he was "horrified" to learn of Dr Santori's inexperience. He added that doctors knew that his father was potentially violent but had ignored family cries for help and insisted: "We are doctors, we know best."

Marjorie Wallace, chief executive of the mental health charity Sane, said it was like a junior pilot with two weeks' experience of flying big jets being put in sole charge of a jumbo-jet packed with holiday-makers.



Microflight pilot Brian Milton being greeted by his daughter Jade on touching down at Brooklands airport in Surrey yesterday at the end of his record 120-day, 23,000-mile round-the-world journey
Tim Ockenbury

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U-turn over Lockerbie trial abroad

IN A major policy shift on Lockerbie, Britain and the United States are moving towards agreement that the two Libyans charged with the bombing of PanAm flight 103 may be tried in a third country - as long as the victims' families and demanded by the Libyan leader, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi.

Initially, the Government denied any decision had been taken to allow the trial to go ahead in The Hague, and insisted its policy remained that the two suspects face a court in Scotland or the US, which Colonel Gaddafi refuses.

But, senior Foreign Office officials said, other options had been explored and that while a third country trial was not the best outcome, "our overall goal is to get the two before justice". Almost simultaneously in the US, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright met representatives of the families of the American victims. "They are talking with the Dutch and looking into moving the trial," a participant said.

Lamia Khalifah Fhimah and Abdel Basset al-Megrahi, said to be Libyan intelligence agents, were accused in November 1991 of planting the bomb which killed 270 people in the worst terrorist incident in British history. But Colonel Gaddafi refused to release them, saying they would not get a fair trial in either Britain or the US.

Since then the two countries have sought to force the Libyan leader to comply with an array of international sanc-

BY RUPERT CORNWELL
AND STEPHEN GOODWIN

tions, including a ban on air travel to Libya. But this strategy is crumbling amid increasing opposition from Arab and African states, with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt the most prominent of several foreign visitors of late to visit Colonel Gaddafi.

With the new approach, London and Washington hope to regain the initiative. They reckon that even the promise of a trial conducted in a third country under Scottish procedure, presided by a Scottish judge and with an international panel of judges instead of a jury, will probably not persuade the Libyan leader to hand over the suspects.

But even if he refuses, they calculate, it will be far more difficult for the Arab League and the Organisation of African Unity, which put forward such a compromise, to back out of sanctions. It will also heal an embarrassing and painful rift with the families themselves.

Anxious above all for justice almost 10 years after the tragedy, the victims' relatives have grown increasingly frustrated at Britain and America's refusal to go along with what has seemed the only realistic means of securing a trial.

Jim Swire, spokesman of the British Lockerbie relatives who lost his daughter Flora in the bombing said yesterday he was delighted. "This is a major step forward in our search for truth and justice," Dr Swire said.

Top chef quits to seek stars

CHEF GORDON Ramsay is to quit the top London restaurant Aubergine to set up his own eaterie.

Ramsay is making the move from the Fulham restaurant in pursuit of his ambition to achieve a third Michelin star, the culinary world's highest accolade.

The former Glasgow Rangers footballer, who recently turned down an opportunity to be the official chef to the Scotland squad during the World Cup, will open the 40-seat restaurant bearing his own name in Chelsea in September.

He said: "I have enjoyed five fantastic years at Aubergine but I feel that now is the time to move on."

"My ambition is to obtain a

BY SIMONE TEGEL

third Michelin star and I believe the new restaurant will achieve this goal."

Famous for his short fuse, Ramsay, 32, was recently reported to have ended his feud with his equally temperamental rival Marco Pierre White.

Ramsay has resigned from the board of A-Z Ltd - the company that owns Aubergine, where he has been for the past five years.

The chef is regarded as one of the best young talents in the restaurant business.

Aubergine has been notorious in London for the length of its waiting list - with prospective diners having to wait up to three months for a table.

DAVID STEEL

"The Liberal Democrats certainly don't wish to see the Blair/Ashdown axis become entrenched. Coalition this side of a general election is out of the question."

—THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 5

Licensing reform: Government advisors call for fundamental changes to "Victorian" licensing laws

Pubs could soon be open day and night

BRITONS COULD be allowed to drink all day and all night in the cities, if recommendations from a Government task force are taken on board. In its report, the Better Regulation Task Force said ministers should call time on present "Victorian" licensing laws as there was a need for "fundamental reform".

Christopher Haskins, chairman of the task force, said present laws meant that when drinkers leave pubs at 11pm there was a "licence for trouble" and all pubs should be able to stay open until midnight unless they caused a nuisance to local communities.

The Home Office said yesterday that it was carrying out its own review into licensing laws and the task force's suggestions would be "considered and responded to".

Speaking at the publication of the report, Lord Haskins said that the "high moral tone" contained in the present legislation was not in tune with today's society. In particular, closing pubs at 10.30pm on Sundays was viewed by many as "humbug".

While drinking laws were radically revised in 1988 when all-day drinking was introduced, some laws still date back to attempts during the First World

BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

War to curb drunkenness in vital munitions factories.

"Putting everybody out on the streets at 10.30pm just means that in the previous 45 minutes people drink too much," said Lord Haskins.

He said more flexibility was needed. "In the West End of London it seems quite reasonable to me for pubs to stay open 24 hours a day, but if it was in remote Wiltshire a pub with hedges blowing throughout the night would cause a nuisance."

The group called on the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, to initiate a thorough shake-up in the law standardising the two main forms of licence - for pubs and off-licences - and thereby losing many of the 40 different licences available.

They are also asking for licences to be transferable so that a person granted one could run premises anywhere in England and Wales. The present system is administered by magistrates but the task force recommends that the power to grant liquor licences be passed over to local authorities. With the growth of large pub chains around the country the group also sug-

gested there should be "corporate responsibility", where a company and not only the managing licensee would be responsible for regulating the premises.

The task force proposed no major review of the age limits but said that the age of 18 should not necessarily be a watershed. Café bars or restaurants which were marketed to attract the family could have different age restrictions than a club or pub targeted at adults.

The recommendations were welcomed by licensees and businesses. "We are very pleased that they have given a thumbs-up to a new way of looking at the situation," said Tim Hampson, spokesman for the Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association, which represents more than half of the 60,000 pubs in the UK.

Stephen O'Brien, chief executive of the business campaign group, London First, said: "The current liquor licensing regime is hampering the ability of our cities to compete internationally. It restricts choice for visitors... and limits our ability to bid for major events such as the Olympics and the World Cup."

But Alcohol Concern said that while they did not necessarily have a problem with more flexibility, more work must be done. "At the moment no one knows what impact this would have," said a spokesman.

And Paul Candler, owner of the Frog & Rosbif chain in France, warned that longer opening hours would not necessarily be good news for publicans. "You have much higher running costs because you are working 14-hour days so you employ more staff. And I don't believe that people drink more or spend more with longer hours."



Drinking in the Balans bar in Soho, London, where customers would welcome 24-hour opening time as 'better for everyone' David Rose

Soho toasts prospect of later hours

BY DIANA BLAMIRIS

Twenty-four-hour drinking would revolutionise the lager-lout mentality in Britain rather than breeding a nation of alcoholics, if the customers at a late night bar in Soho are to be believed.

Balans bar in London already serves alcohol between 11am and 3am and would open all day and all night if the rules changed.

Extended hours would simply enable British drinkers to stop bingeing says Joe Laniado, 35, a customer from west London. "Europeans can't believe how drunk people get here. They would no longer

feel the need to go out and drink as much as possible between 7.30pm and 11.30pm and get absolutely legless," he said.

England's drinking habits are "archaic" according to 31-year-old Ian Painting, from Sydney. He added: "It won't encourage people to become alcoholics. Just because it's available it doesn't mean everyone will take it to extremes."

"I don't go out until 9pm. It means you can't carry on drinking after you've had a meal. Shops never used to open on Sunday and now it is the norm.

A time will come when everyone will be able to drink 24-hours-a-day seven days a week and no one will bat an eyelid."

For clubbers, England's drinking laws are a blight on the evening, says 25-year-old Craig Gordon from Glasgow. "When you come out of a club at 4am you want to go somewhere for a drink. We work long hours these days so we should be able to play for longer."

Soho resident Shona McDonald, 33, believes that locals ought to be given double-glazing if 24-hour drinking is allowed but she acknowledges the need. "If you have come into

the centre from outside London and miss the last bus you should be able to just bang out until the morning - you can't because nowhere is open."

There is nobody who would like 24-hour drinking more than David Taylor, owner of Balans bar, who resents the lengths he has to go to for a late licence.

"You have to go through so many hoops just to offer a late drink," said Mr Taylor, who believes all-day drinking would make life easier for licensees, the public and the police.

"I have to charge £3 after 11pm to have late drinking. It is a great inconvenience because the customers think we are money-grabbing. They often don't understand why we have to charge and get quite stroppy. "People work round the clock these days, especially in Soho with all the media companies, so we need to cater for that. If people finish work at midnight and want to have breakfast and a drink we should be able to provide that. It would be better for the police. In Soho there are a lot of illegal drinking dens, but if the police close them down they just open up again. This would make things better for everyone."

THE EUROPEAN WAY

Closing time in other EU countries:

Austria	5 or 6am (with police permission)
Belgium	No restrictions
France	No restrictions
Germany	Decided by local government
Ireland	11.30pm but exemptions possible
Portugal	No restrictions
Scotland	Decided by local government
Spain	often up to 4am in Edinburgh
Luxembourg	No restrictions
	12 or 1am

Police follow up fresh lead in case of Suzy Lamplugh

DETECTIVES investigating the disappearance of the estate agent Suzy Lamplugh are following up a new lead, Scotland Yard said yesterday.

Miss Lamplugh, 25, went missing on 28 July 1986 after leaving her office in Fulham, west London, to meet a client called Mr Kipper. She was never seen again and her body has never been found.

"We have received certain information from a member of the public relating to the disappearance of Suzy Lamplugh," a Scotland Yard spokeswoman said. "We will follow up that information in the same way we would follow up any new information. The investigation into the disappearance of Miss Lamplugh is still open."

It is understood that detectives are examining links between the disappearance of Miss Lamplugh and attacks

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

on several other women believed to be the victims of a stalker.

The Lamplugh inquiry was eventually scaled down because, despite an unprecedented operation to trace her, police were never able to establish what happened to her after she left her office.

Miss Lamplugh worked for a branch of the Sturgis estate agents. After she disappeared her car was found near the house where she had been to meet a client.

A nationwide search was launched and reported sightings flooded in from all over the world.

Several suspects were questioned, including John Cannan, who is serving a life sentence for the murder of the



Lamplugh: 12-year riddle

newly married sales manager Shirley Banks. Cannan, 37, a Bristol car dealer, has always protested his innocence of the Lamplugh killing and police officers have stressed their belief that there was no concrete evidence linking him with Miss Lamplugh.

A 1995 book by the crime

writer Christopher Berry-Dee claimed that Michael Sams, who murdered the prostitute Julie Dart and kidnapped the property consultant Stephanie Slater, also killed Miss Lamplugh, but the theory was discounted by police.

Miss Lamplugh was officially declared dead in 1994. Thanks largely to the determination of her mother, Diana, the case has remained in the public consciousness.

Five months after her daughter's disappearance, Mrs Lamplugh founded the Suzy Lamplugh Trust to campaign for better protection for young people against sexual and other violence. A statement yesterday from the trust said: "Whilst it would be a relief to know exactly what happened to Suzy, the family now focuses its activities on ensuring other people do not suffer the same fate."

IN BRIEF

Mortar attack on police fails

TERRORISTS last night failed in their attempt to launch a mortar bomb attack on a police station in Northern Ireland. While they managed to fire one mortar, the device exploded just feet from a van from which police believe it was launched. No one was hurt in the attack at Newry, Co Down which happened shortly after 5pm. While there was no warning prior to the attack there was speculation last night dissident republicans were responsible. There was an attempted car bomb attack in Newry eight days ago.

Radio warned of 'wind-up' calls

RADIO WATCHDOGS warned stations about the dangers of "wind-up" calls yesterday after falling victims to a prankster DJ themselves. Steve Jackson, of Kiss FM, in London, was ticked off by the Radio Authority for broadcasting an anonymously made call to his station's offices.

WPC says fitness test was unfair

MICHELLE THOMAS, 31, who is claiming indirect sexual discrimination against the Metropolitan police, told an industrial tribunal in Norwich that the fitness test she took to become a doghandler, and failed, was unfair.

Families reel from wrong dinosaur

A FAMILY visit to a cinema in Bury ended in chaos when a projectionist's mistake resulted in customers seeing the antics of the adult comedian Roy Chubby Brown rather than *Barney's Great Adventure*, about a singing dinosaur.

Irradiated sperm link to cancer

EXPOSURE TO radiation can increase the risk of cancer in the next generation by causing damage to sperm cells, scientists have found.

Studies in animals show that the offspring of those exposed to radiation were nearly twice as likely to develop leukaemia when dosed with a cancer-causing chemical as those whose male parents were not exposed to radiation.

The finding by scientists in Manchester may reopen the debate about the risks to nuclear power workers. It adds to the growing evidence that leukaemia is the result of a "double hit" - initial damage caused by radiation which increases vulnerability to a second attack, such as infection with a virus, triggering the cancer.

The new study by a team at

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

the Paterson Institute for Cancer Research shows that in mice exposed to low levels of radiation an increased vulnerability is passed down the generations - but the cancer only developed if they were subjected to a second trigger. Brian Lord, who led the research team, said the findings, published in the *British Journal of Cancer*, did not explain the cluster of leukaemia cases found around the Sellafield nuclear plant in Cumbria.

"But what it does show us, for the first time, is a potential way in which paternal irradiation can lead to an increase in leukaemia risk for the next generation. It shows us how DNA defects can be passed from generation to generation."

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Ashdown's quiet army marches into Labour's corridors of power

PADDY ASHDOWN faced criticism from within his party last night as senior Liberal Democrats became increasingly anxious that their leader was heading for a coalition with Labour.

As members gathered in a London hotel to celebrate Mr Ashdown's 10th anniversary as leader, Lord Steel said such a move would be unthinkable within the next few years.

Writing in today's *Independent*, the former Liberal leader says Mr Ashdown should act with caution. "The party certainly doesn't wish to see the Blair/Ashdown axis becoming entrenched. Coalition this side of a PR [proportional representation] general election is out of the question," he says.

Little more than a decade ago, while David Steel was leader, many of those involved in the realignment of British politics - the Liberal Democrats' forerunners the Social Democratic Party (SDP) - were trying to smash the Labour Party. Today, some of them work in Downing Street and others have easy access to the corridors of power.

Mr Ashdown's recent demands for a cabinet post have been less than subtle. "I intend to make sure that this party continues under my leadership... to make sure that we go through this Parliament and make sure that we deliver this party into government," he said last weekend.

Pre-election, such words would have been dismissed as the empty posturing of a third-party leader. But now they have a very different ring.

Just six weeks after last year's general election hostilities drew to a close, Mr Ashdown had dinner in Downing Street with Tony Blair and Peter Mandelson. Also present was Lord (Roy) Jenkins, a former Labour chancellor and first leader of the SDP. It was said that Mr Blair spelled out a plan to reunify the centre left and put the Tories in permanent opposition.

Since then Mr Blair and Mr Ashdown have cemented their friendship. Lord Jenkins, who acts as intermediary for them, has been put in charge of a commission on electoral reform.

By FRAN ABRAMS
AND ANDREW MULLINS

Before Labour's first 100 days were up, Mr Blair had announced the formation of a joint cabinet committee between the two parties. For the Liberal Democrats, Mr Ashdown attends with his close aide Lord Holme, home affairs spokesman Alan Beith and his foreign affairs spokesman Menzies Campbell. For Labour, Mr Blair attends with Mr Mandelson, minister without portfolio, and various other ministers, often including the Home Secretary, Jack Straw.

But such formal links do not tell the whole story. Quietly, the old enmity between Labour and those who deserted it in the early Eighties for the SDP is being smoothed away.

Lord (Tom) McNally, a former Labour MP who defected and later became a Liberal Democrat peer, is a close adviser to Mr Ashdown and a key figure in the process. He was political adviser to former prime minister James Callaghan between 1976 and 1979.

Lord Taverne was a Labour minister under Harold Wilson before quitting in 1972 and joining the SDP in 1981, is sympathetic to Labour although unlikely to join again. "They are too right wing for me now," he explains. "Of course a lot of us in the Liberal Democrats are talking to Labour people. Why not? It's good, sensible stuff."

Lord Rodgers, who as Bill Rodgers was one of the original "Gang of Four" who set up the SDP, has long been an advocate of closer links with Labour. Even Baroness (Shirley) Williams, who has warned that the Liberal Democrats must not exchange their key policies for "a handful of government posts", believes that Mr Ashdown is "absolutely right" to open the door to closer links.

The process is even going on inside No 10. Two of Tony Blair's advisers, Roger Liddle - recently caught up in the cash-for-access scandal - and Andrew Adonis, defected from the Liberal Democrats to Labour three years ago.

Mr Liddle was an adviser to

THE LIB LAB FAMILY



LABOUR



Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown
The two leaders have established a good relationship and speak regularly. Soon after last year's election they had dinner at No 10 with Lord Jenkins and Peter Mandelson. Blair proposed a centre left alliance to keep Tories out of power for decades.



LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Jenkins Commission on electoral reform



Lord Jenkins, Lord Alexander of Weedon (Con), Baroness Gould of Potternewton (Lab), Sir John Chilcott (former Civil servant) David Lipsey (political journalist) sit on committee to produce recommendations to change the voting system. Due to report in late October.

Joint Cabinet Committee
set up to aid cross-party cooperation



Paddy Ashdown, Alan Beith, Lord Holme and Menzies Campbell attend for Lib Dems with Tony Blair, Peter Mandelson and other Ministers on occasion. Set up last year, committee meets in Downing Street to discuss legislation both parties can support.

The SDP Connection



Lord (Tom) McNally adviser to Paddy Ashdown. Worked in Downing Street under Callaghan with two current ministers (Lord Donoghue and Jack Cunningham). Lord (Bill) Rodgers has long advocated closer links with Labour. Lord (Dick) Taverne says he is happy to talk to Labour but unlikely to rejoin party he left because Labour is now too right wing. Baroness (Shirley) Williams believes Ashdown is "absolutely right" to open door to closer links with Labour.

No 10. Policy Unit



Two advisers, Roger Liddle and Andrew Adonis were in the SDP.

The Glasgow Connection



Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar, was on the same law course at Glasgow with Menzies Campbell. Also there, in the early 1960s, was Labour leader John Smith. They remained close friends.

The Lobbyists



Sir Ian Wigglesworth, former Labour MP, defected to SDP in 1981. Chairman of GPC Market Access, former chairman of Prima Europe. Roger Liddle and Derek Draper were shareholders. John Dickie MD, GPC Market Access, former Liberal Democrat councillor defected to Labour in 1995 with Andrew Adonis. Lord (Dick) Newby Dir Matrix Communications, joined SDP in 1981. Dep Ch Liberal Democrats 1997 Campaign. Andrew Gifford Founder, GHW Government Relations. Former adviser to Lord (David) Steel.

Mr Rodgers when he was transport secretary in the late Seventies. He was a Labour councillor in Lambeth with Mr Mandelson between 1979 and 1982 before joining the SDP. In 1996, restored to Labour, he wrote *The Blair Revolution* with Mr Mandelson. Other old friendships hold true. The Secretary of State for Scotland, Donald Dewar, keeps up his links with Mr Campbell, with whom he studied law at Glasgow in the Sixties. John Smith, the late Labour leader, was a close university friend. In the early Nineties, Mr Liddle set up Prima Europe with Richard Holme (now Lord

Holme) and Lord Taverne. According to its founders, the company was "a think-tank with invoices" until Derek Draper, a former aide to Mr Mandelson and another central figure in the cash-for-access affair, joined in 1996. Mr Liddle is the brother-in-law of Lord Newby, Lord Holme's deputy in

last year's election and director of Matrix Communications. Not all these characters are old-stagers, though. Andrew Adonis was in the early Eighties, a friend at Oxford with John Dickie, now a director of GPC Market Access. The two left the Liberal Democrats for Labour on the same day.

Lord (David) Sainsbury bankrolled both the SDP and Mr Draper's *Progress* magazine before becoming a Labour peer last year. And Sir Ian Wigglesworth, a former Labour MP and SDP defector, is now chairman of GPC Market Access.

Paul Cottrell, assistant general secretary of the Association of University Teachers, said: "This transfer market has been stimulated by previous research assessment exercises. It adds nothing to the global sum of research quality in universities and colleges."

By BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

MEASURES TO curb a football-style transfer market in top research academics were announced yesterday.

Academics fear staff poaching has increased because of the four-yearly Research Assessment Exercise, under which university departments are graded for their work.

They fear some universities may try to "buy in" talent to improve their ratings and secure extra funding.

Elite academics can command salaries of anything up to £100,000 as universities vie to improve their reputation and secure high research ratings, which help them win a bigger slice of government grants worth £800m a year.

Yesterday officials from the Higher Education Funding Council for England proposed measures to "damp down" the market in top academics for the next assessment in 2001 and ordered more research into the problem.

Under the scheme, universities which lose a top researcher up to a year before the assessment would still be able to claim their work as evidence of the quality of their old department.

David Pilbush, head of research at the council, insisted the problems were small. He said: "It's not that this does not exist; it's just relatively small."

Estimates suggest around 2 per cent of academic job changes are prompted by research assessment. But Mr Pilbush said it was difficult to isolate the effect of research assessment from the normal movement within the academic world.

Paul Cottrell, assistant general secretary of the Association of University Teachers, said: "This transfer market has been stimulated by previous research assessment exercises. It adds nothing to the global sum of research quality in universities and colleges."

ITV puts on a show to attract middle classes

By PAUL MCCANN
Media Editor

ITV LAUNCHED its autumn programme season yesterday with an undisguised attempt to bring the viewing "middle classes" back to the channel. Britain's biggest commercial broadcaster hopes that the line-up of dramas and factual programmes will help to rid the broadcaster of its working-class image. It also plans a multi-million pound advertising campaign and new logo that will bring its audience more in line with modern Britain.

The channel will air a version of Laurie Lee's *Cider with Rosie*, starring Juliet Stevenson and adapted by John Mortimer, that would look more at home on BBC 2. It has also signed up the American travel writer Bill Bryson to host a television version of his best-selling book *Notes from a Small Island*.



Actress Juliet Stevenson and writer John Mortimer

Other efforts to bring in a middle-class audience include a gritty drama about the true story of Stefan Kiszko, the man freed in 1992 after wrongly serving 16 years for the murder of a child, and a lavish adaptation of CS Forester's classic maritime Hornblower stories. ITV also has scriptwriters



Actress Juliet Stevenson and writer John Mortimer

monitoring the Stephen Lawrence inquiry and plans to make a film about the murder. David Liddiment, ITV's director of programmes, said the schedule was the start of a change in direction: "Our ambition is to get the demographics of the channel broadly in line with the demographics of

Britain. By 2003, something like 50 per cent of the country will be in the consumer group ABC1. Everybody thinks of ABC1s as having a big house, a Jag in the drive and a country club, but that's not true. More and more they are the majority of Britain, so it is important to reflect their interests."

Yet ITV has still to supply advertisers with mass audiences, so its schedule will also contain the lighter fare that the channel is famous for: Taking a leaf out of BBC 1's book, the channel has commissioned hours of "soap-doo" - fly-on-the-wall documentaries, and is tweaking old favourites, like *You've Been Framed* and *Blind Date*, to try to extend their lives.

"What we want to do is retain a loyalty to everybody," said Mr Liddiment yesterday. "It's not just going up-market or going down-market, it's about including everybody."

Bloody Sunday subpoena move

A PENSIONS agency may be subpoenaed by the Bloody Sunday inquiry in a bid to trace 20 soldiers who were near the spot where 14 civilians were shot dead by troops in Londonderry in 1972, tribunal chairman Lord Saville said yesterday.

He was speaking at a preliminary hearing after Ian Burnett QC, for the Ministry of Defence, said the Data Protection Act prevented the MoD releasing the names and addresses of the men, who were receiving army pensions.

Lord Saville said he and fellow inquiry members, former New Zealand judge Sir Edward Somers, and the former Chief Justice of New Brunswick in Canada, William Hoyt, would

consider issuing subpoenas. "It is very, very important indeed that we move with the greatest possible speed to ascertain the whereabouts of the greatest number of soldiers who were in Derry that day," the chairman added.

The preliminary hearing of the Bloody Sunday Tribunal - set up to investigate the killings and the wounding of 13 other civilians in Londonderry's Bogside area - ended yesterday in the city's Guildhall.

Lord Saville said the tribunal would rule on Friday on issues raised during the hearing, including applications for anonymity and immunity from prosecution.

The full inquiry is expected to begin next February.

Pop group woman 'too drunk to stand'

THE MANAGER of the pop group Wet Wet Wet yesterday claimed his personal secretary became so "embarrassingly drunk" at work functions that she could not stand up.

On one occasion, claimed Elliot Davis, Maggi Meehan "harangued" him in front of a number of celebrities at a concert and was too drunk to tick guests' names off a list.

"She was aggressive, desperate and arrogant but I would like to think I reasonably calmed her down," he told a tribunal in Glasgow.

Miss Meehan, 30, claims she was constructively dismissed by The Precious Organisation because of the behaviour of Mr Davis. He admitted she had been "the best PA I have

ever worked with", but said there was another side to her that forced him to caution her about her behaviour.

"She has a temper and it caused her to be short with certain other staff. It may have been exacerbated by what became a drink problem. She was shouting and swearing at employees and coming in smelling of drink, and being disruptive at events when she was representing the company."

Representing herself, Miss Meehan told the tribunal: "The softly spoken forms of Mr Davis today are not that of the gentleman whose employ I left last September. During the move to new premises, working conditions deteriorated so badly they became unbearable."

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Britain in the dock over using oceans as a dumping ground

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY
in Sintra

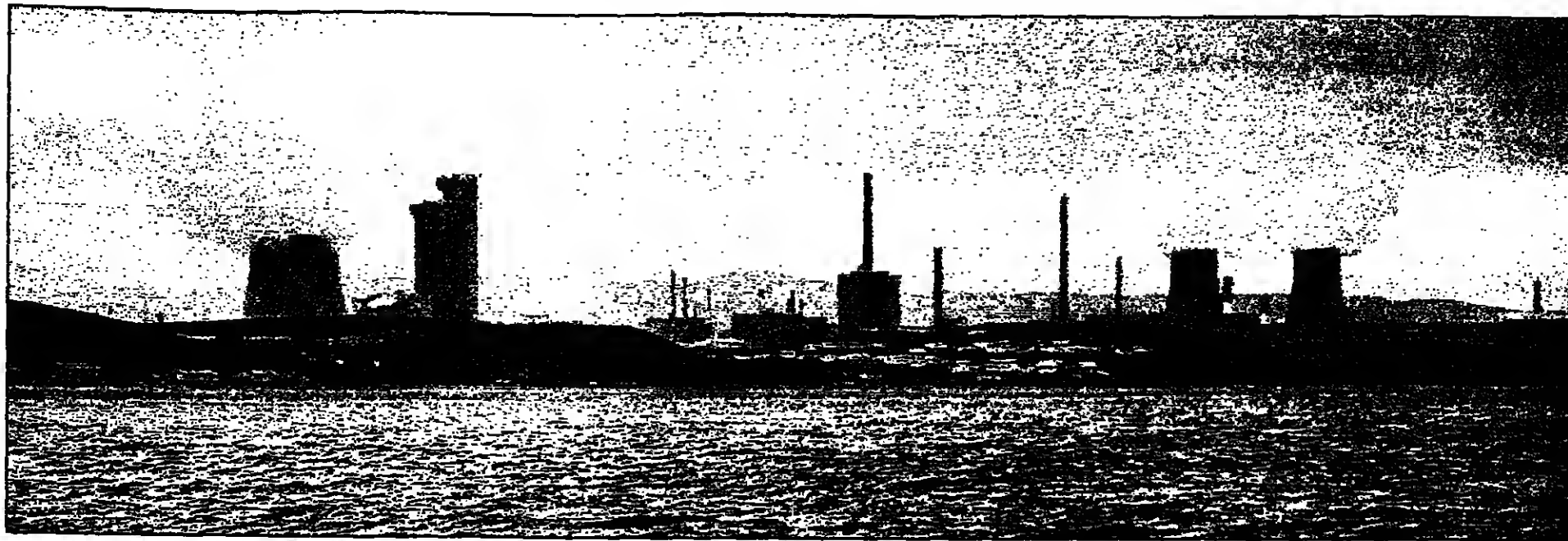
BRITAIN'S PAST and its consistent record of using the seas and oceans as a convenient dump will catch up with it here in Portugal today and tomorrow, when environment ministers from all over Europe gather to pledge a new deal on clean seas.

The United Kingdom will be the nation principally in the dock at the first meeting of the OSPAR convention for the protection of the marine environment in the north-east Atlantic, formed of signatories to a new legally binding treaty to keep the seas pollution-free from Gibraltar to the North Pole.

Over three main issues – the discharge of dangerous chemicals, the dumping of redundant oil rigs and above all radioactive discharges – Britain has spent much of the pre-conference negotiations at odds with the convention's other 15 member states. Now, as the ministers take over from the civil servants in this hill resort 15 miles outside Lisbon, some agreement is in sight – but only some.

Britain has dropped its objection to the proposal to phase out the discharge to the sea of hazardous substances, which as late as May, UK officials were characterising as "not currently practicable". Michael Meacher, the Environment minister, announced last week that Britain had agreed a time-frame of stopping discharges by 2020.

And Britain has also softened its stance on the dumping in the sea of oil platforms that have come to the end of their



The nuclear reprocessing plant Sellafield, in Cumbria
Tom Pilkston

natural lives. Until last month, UK officials were still striving to keep the option of dumping large steel platforms, weighing more than 4,000 tons, in more than 75 metres of water, despite the international protests provoked by Shell's 1995 attempt to dump its redundant Brent Spar.

Now Britain has agreed that all such platforms should be removed down to the "footings" – the bottom parts that rest on the sea bed – but argument is continuing over how many of those might be permitted to remain.

However, all this pales beside the looming clash over radioactive discharges and in particular over the future of Sellafield, Britain's nuclear reprocessing plant on the Cumbrian coast.

The UK will come under intense pressure from the other states to halt the site's continuing emissions into the sea of radioactive isotopes such as technetium-99, which are building up in fish and shellfish past European Union health limits, and drifting as far as the coast

of Scandinavia. The Nordic countries, in particular, will demand action.

All the member states except Britain and France – the only other country with a nuclear reprocessing plant, at La Hague, near Cherbourg – want discharges brought "close to zero".

The difficulty for the UK is that halting discharges completely would mean closing Sellafield and its Thorp factory for reprocessing spent nuclear power station fuel – thus throwing more than 10,000 employees in a depressed area out of work, losing immensely profitable for-

eign contracts, and abandoning a multi-billion pound investment and a rich reserve of skill in nuclear technology.

Such a move hardly seems likely. It would need to be sanctioned by Tony Blair and by the Cabinet, some of whose members – such as Jack Cunningham,

the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the local MP – would bitterly oppose it.

However, a large dose of very public criticism will be directed towards the British government and in particular at John Prescott, the Deputy

Prime Minister and the minister with responsibility for the environment. The Scandinavian environment ministers, led by Sweden's Anna Lindh, are likely to be direct in their attacks.

And there lies the great irony of Sintra. For Mr Prescott, who returned a hero from last December's conference at Kyoto in Japan on climate change, is himself a long-time campaigner against nuclear pollution of the seas. A former seaman and still an enthusiastic diver, he made it a personal crusade as a backbench MP, dressing in a frogman's suit to hand in a letter of protest to Downing Street. And now he may be the man who will tell the rest of Europe that Sellafield's discharges cannot be halted.

He may find it appropriate to be up on the rocky hill where for 500 years the Portuguese royal family took their ease. For at Sintra, for all his political deftness, Mr Prescott may find himself well and truly wedged between a rock and a hard place.

Gene clue to child speech problems

By JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

CHILDREN WHO are slow to speak may be able to blame their genes, scientists have discovered. The capacity to use language, whether of the street or the ivory tower, is learnt, but its absence appears to be inherited.

A study of 3,000 pairs of twins born in 1994 shows that those who were slow to speak inherited their difficulty, suggesting that there are genes for language. In those whose language development was normal genes played a much smaller part.

The discovery, by researchers at the Institute of Psychiatry, sparked immediate warnings from educationalists that it would lead to stigmatisation of affected children. But Professor Robert Plomin, the scientist leading the research, said that by identifying children with defective genes early on, remedial measures could be started to help them compensate.

"It will be so much better and more efficient if we can predict at an early stage which children are likely to have language problems so that we can prevent them before they occur," he said.

The speed at which children acquire language varies widely and is one of the commonest worries of parents.

Some two-year-olds know only a few words while others have vocabularies of many hundreds of words. It had been thought that the variation was due to environmental factors – especially how much parents talk to their children and the complexity of the language used. To determine whether this was so, the researchers contacted every pair of twins born in England and Wales in 1994 and sent a questionnaire to their parents two years later, of whom just under half replied.

The parents were asked to identify whether their twins

were identical – having the same genes – or non-identical, and to give information about their vocabularies. Vocabulary was estimated by identifying which words the child knew from a test set of 100 words.

The results, obtained by comparing differences between the identical and non-identical twins, showed that the contribution of heredity to the acquisition of vocabulary was low for the population as a whole. Genes accounted for about 25 per cent of the differences, with the rest depending on environmental influences. But when the 5 per cent of the children who were the slowest speakers were separated out, the genetic influence was much stronger, accounting for 73 per cent of the difference.

Professor Plomin, whose study is published in *Nature Neuroscience*, said that not all children who were slow to talk had persistent language problems. Einstein had not talked before he was three.

The next stage of the research would be to identify the genes responsible for language skills, and, using molecular techniques, find the genetic differences between children with persistent problems and those, like Einstein, with temporary problems.

"If we can find the genes which will predict which children will have persistent problems then we can look at interventions that might help them," he said.

He dismissed claims that the children would be stigmatised as spurious. "Kids with language problems are stigmatised anyway. Their friends can see that a child doesn't speak well. The issue of labelling and stigmatisation is a red herring."

Claims that differences in linguistic ability were due to environmental influences could be more damaging, he said, especially if parents blamed themselves rather than their heritage for their child's problems.

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KEN LIVINGSTONE

'The real lesson for John Prescott from the GLC experience is that it pays to invest in public transport'

—THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4—

The old war horse makes the minister eat his words

IT WAS a slow day in the House of Commons yesterday as we recovered our breath from the razzle-dazzle of John Prescott and prepared for the wind-down of politics.

These are dog days for MPs and the only excitement left, in late July, is the endless speculation regarding the date, dismissals and promotions associated with the forthcoming government reshuffle.

We kicked off with Scottish questions. The pace was gentle, nothing and nobody stirred, and most MPs were counting the days and dreaming of their summer holidays.

Then the assiduous Tam Dalyell (Lab, Linlithgow), relieved the boredom by reminding ministers

that, when they deal with him, there is no room for loose phrases. He asked the junior minister Henry McLeish about the minister's implied suggestion recently that the Libyan suspects in the Lockerbie bombing case were guilty. Mr McLeish was forced, on the record, to acknowledge that "this was a slip of the tongue on my part in failing to refer to the two Libyans accused as the 'alleged perpetrators'". The Government is committed to a fair trial for the two Libyan suspects.

No minister with any common-sense or intelligence messes with Mr Dalyell, who is the antithesis of robotic control and who has probably accomplished more as a back-

bencher than most junior ministers or careerists will ever achieve. He pursues an issue until he gets an answer. Attempts to prevaricate merely ensure that he redoubles his efforts. He has pursued governments of both parties throughout his 36 years in Parliament on devolution, the Gulf and the Lockerbie bombing almost to the point of obsession. Misjudgements are made, however, by ministers and other MPs about Mr Dalyell. He is not obsessive but he has an incredible ability to smell a rat when something is not right.

After Scottish questions we moved to the minister representing the Lord Chancellor, Geoff Hoon.

THE SKETCH



MICHAEL BROWN

Mr Dalyell had another question: How many officials are involved in legal matters relating to the destruction of Pan Am 103? Minister's answer: None. For most MPs that

would be the end of the matter. Not Mr Dalyell, who was last night initiating his 15th Commons debate on the subject.

It is nearly 10 years since the dreadful events of Lockerbie but I will lay odds that Mr Dalyell's time will come. He is an example to new MPs who will find that there is no job satisfaction in simply parroting whips' office lines.

The relaxed pace continued with the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, giving details of the way he intends to spend the largesse given to him by Gordon Brown last week.

His statement could have been read out by any Conservative Home Secretary, except they would

have thrown in some raw red meat for their hang'em, flog'em brigade to chew on. Under Willie Whitelaw's management it was the short, sharp shock. Under the Michael Howard regime it was the infamous boot camps.

I suspect that the Sir Humphreys of the Home Office, having seen it all before, simply dust off the same speech which every Home Secretary has been making for the past 30 years and leave a space marked "Insert new minister's wheeze and gimmick here". For Mr Straw it all centres on a "crime reduction strategy". All we really learnt yesterday was that this was going to cost the taxpayer £250m.

It was all very worthy stuff and the Tory spokesman, the old war-horse Sir Norman Fowler, had the sense not to overdo his attack. He did, however, expose a problem which the Shadow Cabinet needs to resolve quickly which is fundamental to the way it approaches its opposition to the Government for the rest of this parliament. Their shadow Chancellor Francis Maude says the Government is being reckless with public expenditure whereas his fellow health, education, social security and home affairs spokesmen are all belittling ministers for spending less than the Tories. Mr Hague must grip this one fast.

Blair rallies MPs for reform

LABOUR PARTY
BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR will use an end-of-term pep talk to Labour backbench MPs today to call for their support for radical reforms of housing benefit, legal aid and the state pension.

The Prime Minister will tell the MPs at the meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party in the Commons that the gains in public spending announced by the Chancellor have to be matched by major reform.

He is keen to ensure they support the changes, which will involve hard choices, after they cheered the extra spending. Underlying Mr Blair's remarks is a concern to avoid backbench revolts.

The Cabinet committee on welfare reform, which he chairs, met again this week in an attempt to make headway on the reform of housing benefit, but it is proving very difficult to produce cuts that would be workable, and decisions have been put off until the autumn.

William Hague, the Tory leader, told a conference in London yesterday that the spending statement was "the moment when the Chancellor signed the death warrant for this Government".

"He has done what the Prime Minister promised New Labour would never do and opened the floodgates on public expenditure," he said.

But Labour MPs are delighted by the package, and members of the left-wing Campaign Group, which has been critical of Mr Blair, said last night they would want to be included in the celebrations.

They will be given a further boost today with a statement by Hilary Armstrong, the local government minister, on the

allocation of an additional £3.6bn over the next three years on repairs to 250,000 houses.

That will be the highest council housing programme since the 1970s, but Ms Armstrong will emphasise that the mistakes of the Sixties and Seventies will have to be learned by the local councils.

The priority for councils will be the modernisation of houses and flats which are unoccupied. Many councils have up to 20 per cent of their housing property "void", and Ms Armstrong will tell the authorities they have to tackle the backlog.

In the long term, the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, is seeking Treasury approval to allow local authorities to borrow for further investment on their council-house rent flows.

The Government will announce plans next week to direct more money towards "beacon" councils, following initiatives with beacon schools and plans to establish beacon family doctor practices.

That could be controversial, because it will mean that some councils in the vanguard of modernising their delivery of services could get more than other authorities, which may be less adventurous but dealing with more deprived areas.

The "beacon" authorities will be expected to spread best practice to other councils. The White Paper on local government to be published next week will also pave the way for radical ideas to encourage voters to take more interest in their local councils, including weekend polls and polling stations in supermarkets.

The Government is likely to say it will take up the idea of directly elected mayors, put forward by a backbench peer's Bill but killed through lack of time by the Tories.



Lady Young: "There is no moral equivalence between heterosexual and homosexual relationships" Tom Pilston

Gay lobby faces a doughty fighter

BARONNESS YOUNG
BY COLIN BROWN

GAY ACTIVISTS will hold a vigil outside the House of Lords today in protest at attempts by peers led by Baroness Young, the former Tory cabinet minister, to reverse the age of consent for gay sex from 18 to 16.

Lady Young yesterday defended her stand, which could threaten the Government's flagship law and order measure, the Crime and Disorder Bill, if the Lords succeed in throwing out the Commons amendment. She said her move was backed by Lord Jakobovits, the former chief rabbi, cross-bench peers, and at least one bishop, who will travel from the Lambeth Conference at Canterbury to vote for her amendment.

Baroness Young rejected claims that there should be equality over the age of consent. "I do not believe there is a moral equivalence between heterosexual relationships and homosexual relationships," she said.

A small figure with a string of pearls, Lady Young, 72, is taking on the massive Labour majority of the House of Commons, and the leaders of the gay rights campaign, OutRage!, such as Peter Tatchell.

Lady Young smiled sweetly and showed no sign of being intimidated by the weight of the forces against her.

She is a doughty fighter, with a reputation for being a stickler for discipline. When she took over as Leader of the House of Lords, she made sure that all the ash trays were removed from her room, and kept the alcohol to a minimum.

She never leaked a word about the Cabinet. There was general jubilation when "tin knickers", as she was known by the press corps, was forced to make way for Lord Whitelaw, and the booze and fags returned.

Lady Young was the only

woman to have been promoted to the Cabinet by Lady Thatcher, who moved her to the Foreign Office under Geoffrey Howe, when room in the Lords had to be found for "Willie" Whitelaw.

She seemed to be the embodiment of self-help Thatcherism, but was given her life peerage by Edward Heath in 1971 after spending 15 years on Oxford City Council, eventually becoming its leader.

The daughter of an Oxford don, she was educated at the Dragon School, Oxford, predominantly a boys' school, where she played cricket and rugby, before going on to New Haven Connecticut and St Anne's Oxford, where she read modern greats. Her main interest was in education. She earned a reputation for decisiveness as an education minister in Lady Thatcher's first years in office.

She is strongly motivated by her Christian beliefs. In the House of Lords, she opposed the plans by the Major government for "quickie divorces", and voted against the age of consent being lowered from 21 to 18 in 1994. At her press conference yesterday she was flanked by two young men from the Christian Institute, who handed out a pamphlet called "gay pressure on the young".

Throughout her half-hour in front of the cameras, Lady Young avoided the use of the word "gay" and referred throughout to "homosexuals". Her family - she still lives in Oxford - is amazed at the publicity "gran" has generated by her stand against the lowering of the age of consent for gays.

She has three daughters and four grandsons, including one who is 16. Asked what she would tell her grandson if he was gay, she said: "I would use all my influence - I think it is the job of parents to say what they think about this - to dissuade them from getting involved in this kind of relationship."

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Envoys scorn parking law

THE NUMBER of unpaid parking tickets issued to foreign diplomats was 2,480 at the end of last year compared with 1,674 in 1996, the Foreign Office minister Baroness Symons told Baroness Rendell of Bebergh. The worst offender was Turkey, with 97 tickets unpaid.

10,000 wait

MORE THAN 10,000 asylum-seekers have been waiting since 1995 for a decision on their applications, the Home Office minister Lord Williams of Mostyn told Lord Avebury.

Trade boost

TRADE BETWEEN Britain and China is to be boosted by extra support from the Department of Trade and Industry, the Trade minister Barbara Roche told Ben Chapman (Lab, Wirral S).

Labour 'prefers the press to parliament'

THE LIBERAL Democrats yesterday claimed that ministers were afraid of speaking in the House of Commons and preferred to make statements on the radio or through leaks. Alan Beith, the party's deputy leader, said: "With their present majority, why are they so insecure? I wonder whether counselling would help?"

He told MPs: "To the spin doctor, a leak is preferable to a statement which is questioned."

"When a government has such a large Commons majority there is a real danger that it will feel immune to censure if it oversteps the mark, whether by misleading Parliament or failing to inform it."

Mr Beith stressed the need for effective parliamentary scrutiny of the Government to ensure it was held to account.

Mr Beith attacked the Government for leaking statements to journalists - typically to "the blessed Today programme", he said.

Opening a Liberal Democrat debate on the relationship of government to Parliament, Mr

ACCOUNTABILITY

BY DAISY SAMPSON

Beith said ministers were obsessed with getting the story through in the newspapers.

Mr Beith also attacked what he called the Government's dismissive attitude towards the Upper House. He said the Government was extraordinarily unwilling to recognise its recommendations. "This does not augur well for reform," he said.

The Government has been criticised for indulging in constitutional ping pong with the House of Lords, by refusing to accept an amendment on university grants in Scotland.

Ann Taylor, Leader of the House, dismissed Mr Beith's criticism. "Are you saying we have to accept every amendment from the Lords? That would be daft," she told him.

"It is not undermining their role to disagree with them on some amendments."

Sir Patrick Cormack (C, Staffordshire South) charged the Government with embarking on a major constitutional change

for the Lords without telling MPs what their "final destination" was.

He said: "The Lords has a legitimate revising role. It is important that it should be able to say 'think again'."

On lobbyists, Sir Patrick said: "We should all be concerned about their growing power and influence. We should be the lobbyists. We are sent here by our constituents and it's entirely legitimate for them to expect us to lobby on their behalf."

Defending her cabinet colleagues from the Liberal Democrat charge of leaking statements, Mrs Taylor said that they tried to stick by the code of practice which instructs that important announcements should be made first to Parliament.

"It would be wrong for ministers to give details of important statements on the Today programme. But it is appropriate on occasions to give background briefing. A lot of effort goes into trying to be the balance right."

David Steel, Review, Page 5

Spies excused from openness

SECURITY

BY COLIN BROWN

THE SAS, MI6 and MI5 are to be excluded from new rights which will allow the public to demand the disclosure of government information upon paying a fee of £10.

David Clark, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, yesterday rejected a call by the Commons select committee on public administration, chaired by the Labour MP Rhodri Morgan, for the security and intelligence services to be excluded from the legislation.

Mr Clark said: "Freedom of information is about opening up Government but it is not about putting our security and defence at risk. Our Security and Intelligence Agencies and the Special Forces must be able to operate in complete confidence in order to carry out their duties effectively."

"We do not think that they would be able to do so if their operations and activities were subject to Freedom of Information legislation in

the same way as the rest of the public sector," he said.

Mr Clark denied that the forthcoming reshuffle would be used to water down the Freedom of Information Bill under pressure from other ministers, including Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, who has been arguing against allowing it to undermine the operations of the police.

Answering growing fears by senior Labour MPs that Mr Clark's departure from the Cabinet could weaken the legislation, he announced that the Bill will be published in draft form in September and said the whole of the Cabinet was signed up to the proposals laid out in the White Paper *Your Right to Know*.

Mr Blair yesterday named Kevin Tebbit, the 52-year-old head of the listening centre, GCHQ, as the new permanent secretary at the Ministry of Defence.

Mr Tebbit becomes the Ministry's top civil servant in succession to Sir Richard Mottram.

THE HOUSE



School Standards Bill passed

PEERS last night finally approved The School Standards and Framework Bill, which limits class sizes and sets up education action zones. The Lords had inflicted five government defeats on the measure but it was accepted after ministers accepted one amendment and compromised on another.

Open Downing St, says peer

THE SECURITY gates to Downing Street should be removed, the Labour peer Lord Morris of Manchester said in the Lords last night. However, the government spokesman Lord McIntosh of Haringey ruled out the move because of "a range of threats".

Today

■ Commons: Adjournment debates on future of mutual societies (Andrew Love, Lab, Edmonton); radioactive discharges into marine environment from Sellafield and Dounreay (Roseanna Cunningham, SNP, Perth); support for clean-coal technology (Denis Murphy, Lab, Wansbeck); teaching of left-handed children (Peter Luff, C. Mid, Wiltshire); UK-Argentine relations (Tom Cox, Lab, Tooting); Welsh questions. Questions to Prime Minister. Government of Wales Bill, Lords amendments. Northern Ireland Bill, committee. Adjournment debate on air safety (Tom Brake, C, Carshalton and Wallington).
■ Lords: Third reading of Northern Ireland (Sentences) Bill. Crime and Disorder Bill, Commons amendments. Third reading of Police (Northern Ireland) Bill.

New group to champion the disabled

A DISABILITY Rights Commission would be a "powerful new champion" to cut out discrimination against the disabled, ministers said yesterday.

Launching a White Paper containing plans for the DRC, Alan Howard, the minister for disabled people, said it was part of Labour's manifesto commitment to secure "comprehensive and enforceable civil rights for disabled people".

BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

The plans were welcomed by disability groups, who said the "toothless poodle" of the previous government's Disability Discrimination Act would at last be given teeth.

Mr Howard warned that discrimination against disabled people "remains all too extensive and totally unacceptable".

He called it a "matter of shame" and a "prodigal neglect" of the talent, commitment and loyalty which disabled people could give. At present, disabled people are twice as likely to be in long-term unemployment than others.

The new organisation will have similar powers to the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Commission for Racial Equality. It will work to

promote equality of opportunity, investigate where it thinks discrimination is taking place, and prepare codes of practice. "Where there are disputes, we would expect the DRC in the first instance to co-ordinate and work through the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS)," he said.

Much could be achieved by simple improvements, and Mr Howard referred to examples

such as an employer allowing a diabetes sufferer to work particular shifts, or arranging office furniture to allow a wheelchair-user to get about with less difficulty.

But where a disabled person could not enforce his or her rights "unassisted", or where there was an important question of principle, "we would expect the DRC to support the disabled person taking a case

through in court," Mr Howard said. However, he stressed that he wanted the new body to operate with the "lightest possible touch" consistent with carrying out its job: "I do not intend that it should go tramping all over small businesses."

James Strachan, chief executive of the Royal National Institute of Deaf People, said the DRC was "long overdue". "Until now there has been

no effective legal framework within which to challenge these archaic prejudices," he said. "Given appropriate funding and strong law enforcement powers, the DRC should provide deaf and disabled people with the support to challenge discrimination. At last the toothless poodle of the DDA will be given its teeth."

"This is a very positive step towards ending discrimination

for people with learning disabilities," said Richard Kramer, Mencap's head of campaigns. "The DRC's role in protecting and promoting the rights of people with learning disabilities will be a key component towards introducing full and enforceable civil rights."

The proposals will go out to consultation until 16 October. It is understood the DRC could be operational by the year 2000.

Warning by Vatican on gay priests

BY CLARE GARNER

A SENIOR Vatican official has warned the Anglican Church that if it relaxes its attitude to homosexuality it will undermine the unity of the worldwide Christian Church.

Cardinal Edward Cassidy, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, delivered an unusually plain warning at an ecumenical vespers service.

Cardinal Cassidy, the senior Roman Catholic observer at the Lambeth Conference, sent a clear message to the Church of England that it could not expect to pursue dialogue with the Catholic Church if it continued to take a pro-gay-clergy line.

As president of the Pontifical Council, Cardinal Cassidy helped Pope John Paul II with the task of promoting unity in the worldwide Church. In his homily, he emphasised his devotion to that task, but added that, as ecumenical commitment lost its novelty, "new risks" were emerging.

The "threat" of the Church embracing conflicting views on theological matters such as sexuality was "insidious", he said. Speaking in advance of Thursday's controversial debate on sexuality, at which American bishops are expected to demand a resolution recog-

nising the ordination of practising homosexuals and the blessing of same-sex relationships. Cardinal Cassidy asked: "Are we not experiencing new and deep divisions among Christians as a result of contrasting approaches to human sexuality, for instance?"

"When such attitudes are in the ascendant, this disunity between Christians will remain unresolved. Moreover, disunity becomes an increasingly grave matter within the still separated Churches as well. Authoritative proclamation of the Gospel of Christ is diminished."

Cardinal Cassidy railed against pluralism, saying: "The commitment to unity is relativised if diversity and differences that cannot be reconciled with the Gospel are at the same time being embraced and exulted. It is put in question when pluralism in the Church comes to be regarded as a kind of 'post-modern' beatitude."

"It will be lost sight of altogether if radical obedience, and the necessity of costly ethical choices for faithful discipleship, are swept aside by a naive over-emphasis on our innate goodness, underestimating the reality of sin in our lives and our world, and also the power of Christ's redemption."



Visiting bishops' spouses are shown through the churchyard of the Kent village of St Peter's by guides in traditional garb. Brian Harris

Bishop walks out of play on Israel

BY CLARE GARNER

THE BISHOP of Jerusalem yesterday stormed out of a play he perceived to be endorsing the Israeli annexation of the West Bank and threatened to leave the Lambeth Conference.

The Rt Rev Riah Hanna Abu El-Assal was so upset by "Wrestling with Angels" by the York-based Riding Lights Theatre Company that he was only persuaded to stay after praying privately with the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Bishop Riah, a Palestinian citizen, further ruptured the efforts of the Conference's communication team to put a positive gloss on proceedings.

He called a press conference at which he explained that the offending scene was when two monks representing Israel and Judah (now Palestine) were joined together symbolising the unity of the two nations. He interpreted this gesture of reconciliation as justifying Israeli claims to the West Bank.

"I was greatly disturbed. I thought people would have been more sensitive," he said.

Some delegates at the conference felt that Bishop Riah had come to the conference with his own agenda and reacted in such an extreme way to make a political point.

Bishop Riah also called for the status of Jerusalem to be top of the Conference's agenda.

"The Old Testament has been greatly misunderstood over the last 50 years," he added.

Video footage revives Beast of Bodmin debate

GINGERLY TREADING across the grass is what appears to be a well-fed domestic black cat. But according to experts the animal caught in "video evidence" unveiled yesterday is the infamous Beast of Bodmin, the puma-like creature blamed for killing scores of sheep and causing havoc across the West Country.

The debate about the existence of the Beast was revived again with the release of the footage of two big cats filmed on the Cornish wilderness.

The 20 seconds of video shot at a secret location by someone named only as "John", who lives on the moor, was shown at a news conference at Newquay Zoo yesterday.

The video shows one smaller "Beast" closely resembling a friendly feline and a larger St

BY LUCIE MORRIS

6in long black animal, walking out from behind some trees.

The video will form part of a dossier of evidence on the presence of big cats on and around the moor, which is to be submitted to the Government by North Cornwall MP Paul Tyler.

Reported sightings of large black cats and the deaths of calves stretch back a decade. Mike Thomas, curator of Newquay Zoo and an expert on wild cats, who has been on the Beast's trail for the past three years, says the few seconds of video proves there are big cats roaming wild.

And he believes it could be a species of a kind of wild cat which was supposed to have become extinct in Britain nearly



The latest 'Beast of Bodmin'

130 years ago. He said: "I believe this evidence shows a new species. Look at the rounded tail, look at the eyes - they are golden. Look at the power of the thing as it moves."

Mr Thomas also presented plaster casts and pictures of

what he believes to be the Beast's paw prints. He has set up "Beast Watch", enlisting the help of local children to help him track down the elusive animal.

But Pat Crowther, a photography expert who attended the news conference, said he believed the video appearance of the "Beast" may have been the result of clever editing.

"Apparently the video is over four hours long, there is one point when the cat walks towards a park bench and then the video is suddenly cut," he said.

However, Mr Thomas believes it is the "best evidence yet" of big cats in the wild.

The dossier will be sent to the countryside minister, Elliot Morley, together with details of around 60 other sightings gathered from around Cornwall over the past year.

Judge in McKenna case to view hypnosis tapes

A HIGH Court judge went home last night to watch an adult American TV show featuring a woman having an orgasm under hypnosis, and a man who was persuaded by the hypnotist Paul McKenna to believe he had lost his penis.

Mr Justice Toulson agreed to watch the four-hour video of the Howard Stern Show despite his reservations over its relevance to the damages action being brought against Mr McKenna. A man claims the onset of his schizophrenia was due to taking part in one of the hypnotist's UK stage shows.

The judge was told by the man's QC, Anthony Scrivener, that he was trying to establish that Mr McKenna "used inappropriate acts which put people under considerable distress".

BY MIKE TAYLOR

The £200,000-plus damages action is being brought by Christopher Gates, 30, a furniture polisher from Downley, Bucks. He claims to have suffered psychiatric injury through being hypnotised at the Swan Theatre, High Wycombe, in March 1994.

Nine days after the show, he was admitted to hospital suffering from an acute schizophrenic episode. His mental problems have continued and he is now unemployed. Mr McKenna denies negligence and contends Mr Gates's illness was not caused by hypnosis.

Cross-examining the hypnotist, Mr Scrivener suggested that, while it was said that people could not be made to act

against their moral values under hypnosis, they could be made to do so by "deceit".

"Deceiving a woman into having an orgasm. You have done that, haven't you? You put her under hypnosis on television in America and made her have an orgasm," Mr McKenna replied. "I did not make her have an orgasm. I explained to the ladies who were participating what was going to take place and, under hypnosis, I offered that suggestion, but I did not deceive them."

Mr McKenna agreed that the welfare of the subject should be at the forefront of his mind. He said he did not hold himself out as an expert, although he had expertise in stage hypnosis and practised hypnotherapy. He agreed with counsel that,

before treating someone with hypnotherapy, it was necessary to inquire into the person's history. Mr Scrivener pointed out that, in a stage show, there was no time to do this. Mr McKenna agreed, but said that any volunteer who showed signs of distress would be taken aside to speak to his specially trained stage manager.

Mr Scrivener said: "You used to do a 'lost willy' routine, hypnotising a man to tell him he has lost his penis." Mr McKenna replied that he could not recall anyone being distressed by the routine. Mr Scrivener said: "Isn't it common sense that a suggestion of that kind might cause a man considerable distress?" The hypnotist said he did not agree at all.

The hearing resumes today.

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Genetic crop trials branded illegal

TRIALS OF genetically modified crops are being carried out illegally, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday.

But the appeal judges decided they had no power to stop a trial in Devon which Guy Watson, an organic farmer, fears will cross-pollinate his own crops and put his organic accreditation at risk.

The ruling means the Ministry of Agriculture (Maff) will have to re-examine 1,200 trials currently under way in Britain, including 163 of genetically engineered seeds. And environ-

BY LOUISE JURY

mental campaigners claimed it could delay the introduction of genetically modified crops into the shops for up to two years.

In a 23-page ruling, the Ministry of Agriculture came under fire for flouting laws designed to ensure the safety of seed trials.

Lord Justice Simon Brown, sitting with Lord Justice Judge and Lord Justice Buxton, said it was "remarkable and regrettable" that the approach to the trials had been "contrary to law" for the past three years.

The regulations could be amended, but until then Jack Cunningham, the agriculture minister, "must comply with them just like anyone else".

But the judges said that genetically modified (GM) maize being grown at Hood Barton, Devon, should not be destroyed as the tests could be continued under "fresh arrangements".

It is only if crops are to be sold commercially that they need to have national seed trial listing status and abide by the regulations laid down by Maff. The requirement which has

been consistently breached since 1995 is the holding of repeat trials to ensure safety and standards.

Emphasising the gravity of the breach, Lord Justice Judge "underline[d] in unequivocal language that the department had no authority or legal justification" for waiving the rule which demanded repeat trials.

"The clear requirements of the regulation were ignored because the ministry decided that they no longer served any useful purpose. That is impermissible."

The judges ruled that the Government's costs should not be paid by Mr Watson, who was supported by the Soil Association and the Friends of the Earth, although costs were granted to Sharpes, the seed company involved in the trials.

Tom Jolliffe, of Sharpes, said the replicated trial regulation was a "legal technicality which hasn't been enforced for many years". The regulation applied to all seed trials and not just to genetically modified crops, but had been used in this case to try to stop the Devon trials. Only

six out of 1,200 plots on the site involve GM rather than conventional maize.

The Department of the Environment's advisers had ruled that there was "zero" risk to Mr Watson's crops. This had been confirmed by the European Commission. But Dr

Kees Noome, of Sharpes' parent company, Advanta, conceded that, in general, it was "impossible" to guarantee no cross-pollination under natural conditions. "There is always the possibility of some contamination," he said.

Richard Young, of the Soil Association - which represents the organic farming movement - said they would have to monitor the situation very closely, but one of the problems was how exactly to establish that cross-pollination had taken place. If Mr Watson's crops were shown to be contaminated, organic accreditation would be withdrawn.

Peter Riley, of Friends of the Earth, said: "This demonstrates that rather than being tightly regulated, the rush to develop these Frankenstein foods has led to an astonishing

government disregard towards even the most basic laws."

The need for repeat trials was even more important with genetically engineered crops than other seeds because of the novelty of the science, he said. FoE will oppose suggested attempts to amend the law retrospectively.

Luke Anderson, speaking on behalf of Mr Watson, who was not in court, asked for legislation to protect organic farmers.

A Maff spokesman said they would consider the implications of the case "urgently".

Popular culture: Beatles star's boyhood house is restored and unveiled as a tourist attraction by National Trust

McCartney home joins the nation's heritage

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

HERITAGE WAS redefined by the National Trust yesterday as the boyhood home of Sir Paul McCartney was unveiled as a tourist attraction.

The three-bedroom terraced house at 20 Forthlin Road, Allerton, Liverpool, has been acquired by the trust, which is restoring it to its 1950s modesty.

It certainly merits its place as a piece of pop history. Paul McCartney and John Lennon worked on their songs there in The Beatles' earliest days and composed "Love Me Do" and "I Saw Her Standing There" as well as the music to "When I'm 64".

It was also the birthplace of Scaffold, the chart-topping group formed by Sir Paul's brother Michael.

But the National Trust sees it as part of a larger heritage. Martin Drury, NT director general, said: "It is the first building acquired by the National Trust because of its significance to 20th-century popular culture."

"This 1950s council house is also important because it is typical of enlightened public housing policies of the post-war era."

When the house opens to the public next week it will include photographs taken by Michael McCartney, including one of Paul and John working on



"I Saw Her Standing There". Visitors will also hear an audio tape with memories from the McCartney family.

Sir Paul commented: "My mum and dad would have found it very hard to believe that the house is now a National Trust property."

"You expect the National Trust to own places like Blenheim Palace, not a little terrace house like this. But they would be chuffed about it, and so am I."

The NT bought the house in November 1995. Using photographs taken by Michael McCartney, the trust has restored the house to its original state, with the help of a £47,000 lottery grant.

Sir Paul lived there with his brother and their parents from 1955 until he soared to fame with The Beatles in 1963.

The idea was suggested to the trust by Sir John Birt,



Sheila Jones returns to the home where she lived for 30 years after McCartney (above) left. Dave Kendall/PA

director general of the BBC. In the programme *Birthplace Of The Beatles*, to be screened tonight on BBC 2, Sir John says: "To go into the room where the music was composed, this tiny little room, did give me a shiver."

"I thought this was a sort of

tabernacle of popular culture, of modern music. This is where it all started."

"We've protected very well the important architecture and interiors of previous centuries; we've got to do that for the 20th century as well and I think this is a very

imaginative way of doing it."

On the same programme Julian Gibbs, the National Trust's historic building representative in charge of the project, says, while surveying the back of the house: "The most exciting thing is the drainpipe."

"There's the very famous photograph of Paul half-way up that everybody will know."

"We reckoned that we ought to make sure it is totally protected as an original feature and we have had to wire it up specially with an alarm system to make sure it isn't nicked."

THREE NEW DEFINITIONS OF HISTORY

Modernism as heritage: Number 2 Willow Road in Hampstead, north London, was designed and built by the modernist architect Erno Goldfinger and became his home.

The Trust saw the three-storey brick and concrete rectangle as one of Britain's most important examples of modernist architecture.

It is filled with furniture also designed by Goldfinger and an art collection including works by Henry Moore and Max Ernst.



The Cold War as heritage: Orford Ness in Suffolk can be seen as a monument to the Cold War.

Between 1959 and 1971 it was home to the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, its remote location being perfect for the top-secret work undertaken there.

Tests on atomic weapons were carried out in its massive concrete structures, designed so that, in the event of an accident, explosions could be contained.



Suburbia as heritage: Mr Straw's House in Blyth Grove, Worsop, Nottinghamshire, is a modest semi-detached Edwardian house.

It was left to the Trust by William Straw, a grocer, who never envisaged the Trust would open it to the public. But the NT felt it gave an insight into everyday life in the early 20th century.

The interior has remained unaltered since the 1930s and features contemporary wallpaper and household objects.

DAVID LISTER



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HM Treasury, Euro Preparations Unit

Disease threat to wave victims

THE BEACH by the lagoon at Sissano where hundreds of people once lived on Papua New Guinea's north-west coast was turned into a funeral pyre yesterday as they burned the dead from the tidal wave that struck the remote region last weekend.

Five days after the tidal wave, or tsunami, devastated this stretch of tropical coast along the West Sepik region, destroying villages and sweeping almost two miles inland, rescue officials estimated that the final death toll could reach 3,000, or about one-third of the population along the disaster zone.

The disaster co-ordination office at the village of Aitape, near to where the tsunami struck, said yesterday that rescuers and survivors had counted and buried 1,112 people so far. Most have been buried or burned in mass graves because of the tropical heat and crocodiles and other animals preying on the corpses.

The office discounted an esti-

BY ROBERT MILLIKEN
in Sydney

mate by Cesare Bonivento, the Catholic bishop of West Sepik, that the death toll could reach 8,000. The bishop based his estimate on the fact that only about 500 people had been evacuated from the disaster area.

The 500 are injured people who were taken by helicopters to a field hospital set up by the Australian defence force at Vanimo, a coastal town further west, and to other makeshift medical centres. But at least 2,000 other survivors have been accounted for at other villages. As many of the dead were sucked out to sea by the receding wave, the full death toll may never be known.

A large number of the known dead were children, who lacked the strength to fight the force of a wave 10 metres high. With school holidays under way last weekend, there were more children around Sissano lagoon

than usual. Many had come in from Vanimo to join friends and relatives. An entire school of 200 children from Aitape had gone to Arop, a village on the lagoon. All 200 are reported dead or missing.

"There has been a very high death toll of children," said Colin Trevett, the Papua New Guinean head of the relief operation, who toured the area yesterday with Bill Skate, the Prime Minister. "We've seen how metal and iron buildings have been

crushed and twisted around coconut trees in a few minutes."

The focus turned yesterday to treating the wounded. Many caught pneumonia from swallowing sea water and many others have broken bones. The Australian army's tent hospital at Vanimo has treated 200 people and operated on 55 since it was set up on Monday morning.

Paul Taylor, the army's chief medical officer, said: "There's an enormous amount of medicine to be done here - the medical cri-

sis isn't under control, but the evacuation crisis is."

Austen Crapp, an Australian Catholic priest at Aitape, said: "The bodies are now decomposing and this is developing into a further health hazard for already devastated people."

Questions are being asked about why the scale of the disaster took so long to filter out, and whether more lives might have been saved if the Papua New Guinea authorities had asked Australia for help sooner.

The West Sepik district is remote but part of the problem was because the wave struck last Friday night at 7.30pm, at the start of an official long weekend in Papua New Guinea.

By Saturday night only six people were reported dead, a figure that had changed dramatically by Sunday. Australia sent three military Hercules aircraft with about 100 medical staff and engineers on Sunday, but the first did not reach Vanimo, the nearest accessible

landing strip to the disaster, until Monday.

Papua New Guinea's governments have not developed good communications and access to remote areas, nor an infrastructure that would enable the country to respond swiftly to natural disasters. There have been calls for Australia to channel more of its large annual aid budget to Papua New Guinea to help the country stand more on its own feet in this regard.



Three-year-old Alice Mamasuent sheds a tear after she is treated at a first aid centre in Sissano

Brian Cassey/AP

Slovakia river floods kill 16

BY ADAM LEBOR
in Budapest

HUNDREDS OF troops, police officers and firefighters have been drafted into a massive rescue operation after heavy floods in eastern Slovakia killed at least 16 people, many of them children.

Several rivers burst their banks sending flood waves onto 20 villages and gypsy encampments. Thousands have had to flee their homes, often with only a few minutes' warning.

Officials fear that the death toll could rise still higher as dozens of people are missing and large swaths of the heavily forested area are still inaccessible. They described the consequences of the flooding in one of the most isolated and least developed corners of Europe, as "catastrophic".

"We have 16 dead and dozens of missing people," the Slovak Interior Ministry spokesman, Peter Fleva, said. He said he expected the figure to rise, adding: "We have no precise information on how many children were killed but we are afraid that most of the victims were children."

Emil Bliska, head of the Presov district office, said: "Gradually we are getting the situation under control, as the water has been settling down since last night. But the consequences will be catastrophic."

Pakistan tries to dodge nuclear test sanctions

THE UNITED States Deputy Secretary of State, Strobe Talbott, tomorrow meets the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif, and his Foreign Minister Gohar Ayub Khan in Islamabad to attempt to find a way for Pakistan to avoid the economic sanctions it incurred by testing nuclear weapons in May.

Pakistan's economy is on the lip of disaster, its foreign reserves down to some \$600m (£360m), and it may default on foreign debt repayments later this month. Sanctions could give it the final nudge.

But if President Bill Clinton is persuaded that, in the State Department's words, "substantial progress" has been made towards achieving the United Nations' non-proliferation goals, sanctions could be eased or even lifted.

The most important step in this direction would be for Pak-

istan to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). The main deterrent to it doing so is that India has closed the door on the idea. Pakistan would therefore be signing in isolation.

In Delhi on Monday, Mr Talbott was left in little doubt that India had no intention of signing anything. India made it clear that the price for signing the treaty would be its recognition as a nuclear weapons state, plus a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. State Department sources said that neither of these prizes was on offer.

Mr Talbott was photographed pumping hands with an ecstatic-looking Atal Behari Vajpayee, India's Prime Minister, and chatting happily with Mr Vajpayee's special envoy,

Jaswant Singh. But he left Delhi empty-handed. The two sides have agreed to talk again in Washington late next month.

Mr Sharif's position seems considerably weaker than his Indian counterpart's. Despite a huge parliamentary majority, Mr Sharif has blown whatever patriotic support accrued from the nuclear tests through a series of decisions ranging from the panic-stricken - freezing the \$11bn held by Pakistanis in foreign currency bank accounts - to the bizarre - choosing a moment of national crisis to push ahead with a controversial dam.

According to the Muslim newspaper, members of his party, the Muslim League, are now so unhappy that they are plotting to replace him. Whether such a threat will goad Mr Sharif into giving ground to America or into hanging tough remains to be seen.

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Caution over Nigeria's poll pledge

THE PROMISE by Abdulsalam Abubakar, Nigeria's military ruler, to restore democracy by May won international praise yesterday. The British foreign minister Tony Lloyd said the general's election plans, announced on Monday, were "the best news we have had from Nigeria for a long time."

But some Nigerian opposition figures ridiculed the proposals for a transfer of power to a civilian "elected" president by 29 May. "There is nothing new in the speech," said Gani

By MARY BRAID

Fawehinmi, leader of the Joint Action Committee of Nigeria. "It is the same old wine in new bottles." Crucially, a demand by activists that a civilian government of national unity be formed to oversee the elections was not granted.

And, while freedom of association has been promised, laws authorising arrest and detention without trial remain in force. Britain, France, Germany, the US and the Com-

monwealth seem hopeful that Gen Abubakar, appointed after the death of the dictator Sani Abacha, will finally lead the soldiers back to barracks after decades of military rule. But doubters point out he is not the first Nigerian military ruler to promise to do that.

Welcoming the plan to disband five parties established under Abacha and to allow Nigerians to form and join parties of their choice, Mr Lloyd said: "The time has now come to re-establish dialogue be-

tween Nigeria and Britain and the wider international community." He plans to lobby European Union members to relax sanctions on Nigeria by removing the visa ban on members of the Nigerian military travelling to Europe. This, he argues, will aid dialogue with Nigerian representatives working to promote the Abubakar programme.

Germany's Foreign Minister, Klaus Kinkel, also promised to push for an easing of sanctions if Gen Abubakar bon-

oured his pledges. The announcement was "a sign of hope for the entire region". The US was less effusive. "We will be watching closely the implementation of the plan that (the general) has indicated," said a State department official.

Gen Abubakar also announced the pardon and release of 10 people convicted of plotting a coup against Abacha, the latest in a series of releases of political prisoners. Since taking power, Gen Abubakar has criticised decisions by his pre-

decessor and admitted mistakes were made in Nigeria, which became an international pariah in 1995 after the execution of the writer Ken Saro-Wiwa. Nigeria was suspended from the Commonwealth.

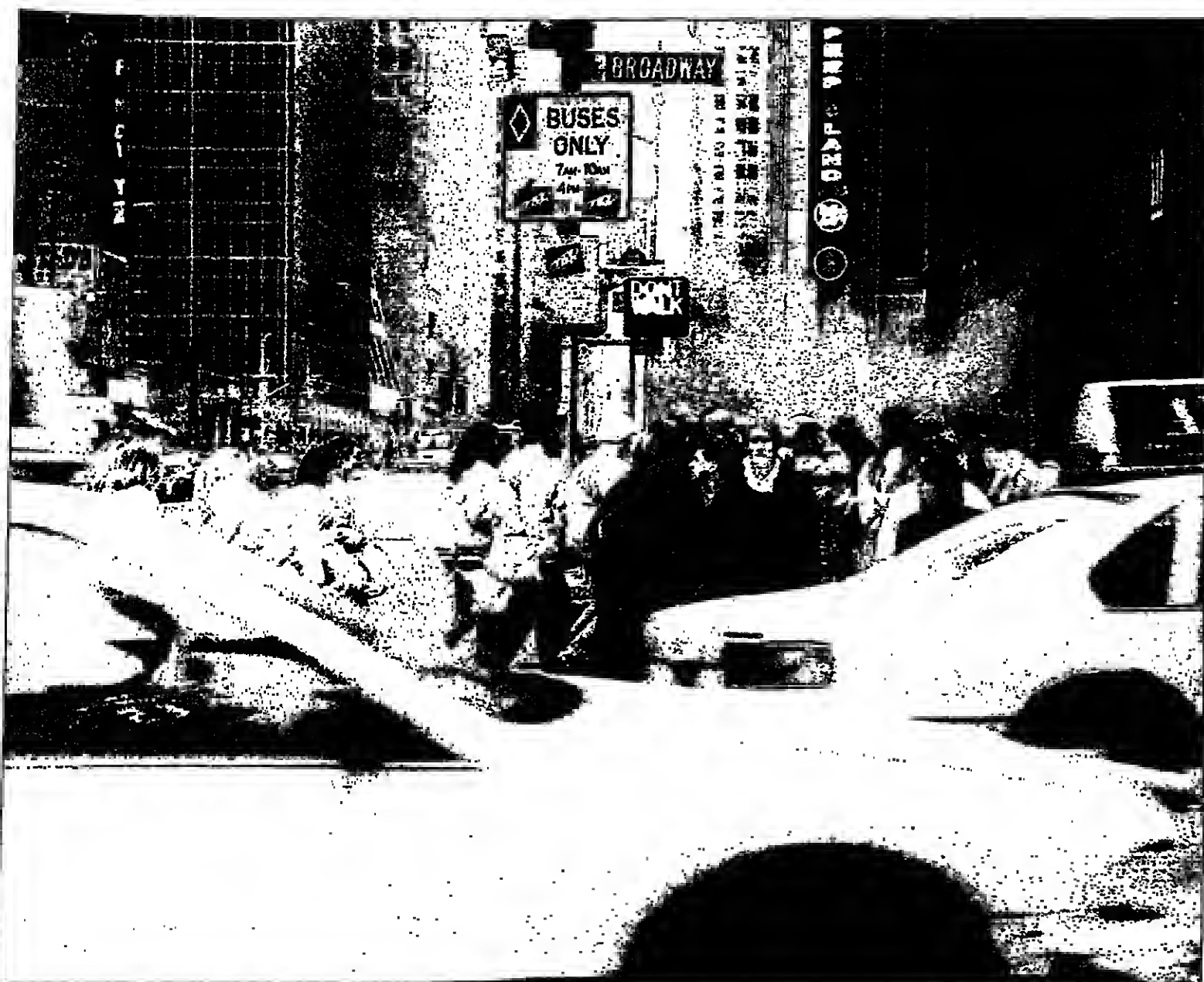
Yesterday Emeke Anyaoku, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, said Nigeria's suspension would end when democratic government was restored. Mr Anyaoku, a Nigerian, also welcomed the release of more political prisoners as

"evidence of his [Gen Abubakar's] commitment to national reconciliation" and the restoration of democracy.

Gen Abubakar's appeal for calm after the death in detention this month of the opposition leader Chief Moshood Abiola, which threatened to plunge Nigeria into conflict, was in marked contrast to the heavy-handed tactics of previous military rulers. But it remains to be seen if he enjoys the support of the military establishment. Nigerian opposition

groups are disappointed that no interim civilian government of national unity is being created but they are also divided about how it would be formed. Last night the mainstream opposition group, the National Democratic Coalition, had still to react to the election plan.

But Tunji Braithwaite, a Lagos lawyer and former presidential hopeful, was quick off the mark. Yesterday he announced the birth of the Democratic Advance Movement, Nigeria's newest political party.



Zoning laws under Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's quality-of-life policies will sweep the sex industry out of Times Square David Swanborough

New York runs sex joints out of town

By DAVID USBORNE
in New York

IF YOU had visited 42nd Street just off Times Square yesterday, you could have seen it for yourself: the sex industry, once the pulse of this midtown neighbourhood, under siege and on the run.

One of this block's oldest establishments was open for business for passing punters in the morning rush hour but ladders were up outside the entrance. One by one, the oversized neon letters P-E-E-P-L-A-N-D, were coming down.

Yesterday was D-day for the Big Apple's once prosperous pornography merchants. Barring a last-minute intervention by the federal appeals court, the city was poised at last to enforce tough new zoning laws that aim to oust most of the sex shops, massage parlours and strip joints from the heart of Manhattan.

In all about 160 adult establishments are likely to be affected by the new laws, inspired by the quality-of-life policies of Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. Under the new rules, any sex-oriented business will be banned from operating within 500 feet of homes, churches, schools or each other. The aim is to exile the shops to industrial areas on the fringes of Manhattan or in other boroughs of the city.

"Giuliani's crazy," railed Raj, a manager at Fun City, another joint just across the street from Peepland, offering the usual mix of video sales, peep-show

booths and naked dancing. "We pay our taxes like anyone else and we have 1,000 customers every day, 45 per cent of them regulars. How many jobs are going to be lost?" His job, for one, Raj reckons.

Peepland is not closing, yet. Like scores of other adult establishments it will try to circumvent the law by toning down its fare. The more suggestive of the street signs are already disappearing. On 8th Avenue, Billy's Topless has miraculously become Billy's Stripless. Strip joint owners are planning to cover a bit of flesh, in the hope of evading the wrath of city officials when the expected raids begin.

At Fun City, plans are already being laid. "The ladies will wear bikinis, and something down here too," explains Raj, pointing to his own midriff. "Maybe something that covers up the front, but I think the butt will still be naked. We are not sure yet." Will the customers still pay for girls in clothes? "If they see naked today and clothed tomorrow, maybe not," says Raj. "Business will go down, of course."

Many sex shop owners are pinning their hopes on fine print that stipulates that the threat of eviction will be applied only to establishments where 40 per cent or more of the stock is

considered pornographic. Workers yesterday were rushing to unpack cardboard boxes of new videotapes as managers sought to pack their shelves with "family" titles to satisfy the 40 per cent threshold.

"It's a real disaster," said a manager at Peep World on Times Square itself, as he replaced *Sodomania* and *Dirty Debutantes* with the less-than-raunchy *Rodeo Bloopers* and *Clipping Coupons for Fun and Profit*. Other shop owners have been frantically trying to sanitise their window displays with tourist tat like plastic Statues of Liberty and Big Apple mugs.

The last hope of the owners, who have been helped in their legal struggles by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), rested with the federal appeals court. Yesterday, judges were weighing a motion to have enforcement of the laws delayed until the case goes before the US Supreme Court in Washington.

Mayor Giuliani, however, is unimpressed by the last-minute manoeuvre. "This is just delaying the inevitable," he warned.

Firing back yesterday was Herald Price Fahringer, the leading lawyer for the industry. Lashing out at the mayor, Mr Fahringer said: "He wants to stamp the porn shops out. Maybe we should all just be real good people and not even think about sex."

3

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Gypsy king is buried with fax and phone

By PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

THE KING of Moldova's Gypsies, Mircea Cerari, has delivered a posthumous blow to a stereotype that has for centuries dragged down his people – the view that they are a band of wandering cobblers and fortune-tellers who know about as much about technology as they do about by-laws and soap.

Cerari went to his grave this week not with a pair of large gold ear-rings, nor a pack of well-thumbed cards, or a horse shoe or a pile of copper pots.

According to local news reports, he was buried with his computer, fax modem, and cell-phone.

Such was the perceived value of the trophies that lie alongside him, which also include a vodka-stocked bar, that organisers of his interment reportedly insisted that concrete was poured over the grave to deter thieves from breaking in.

His death at the age of 59, from a diabetes-related illness, appears to have dealt a blow to the large gypsy population in Moldova, and the surrounding former Soviet states. According to Moldova's *Flux* newspaper, almost 15,000 gypsies from around the region went to the funeral on Monday in Soroca, 80 miles north of Moldova's capital, Kishinev.

His death means that his place as king, or leader, of Moldova's gypsies falls to his son, Arthur.

Cerari's equipment suggests he did somewhat better than most of the several hundred thousand other gypsies who, after trekking across half the planet from north-west India in the 14th century, somehow ended up in the remnants of the Soviet empire.

Age-old prejudice against the gypsies – or, more properly, Rom (the word gypsy derives from Egypt, from where they were for centuries wrongly thought to have come) – has been fanned anew by economic malaise, nationalism and a rise in neo-fascism. But it seems some have made it in the post-Soviet world. In Romania, the Mercedes-driving self-proclaimed gypsy king Cioaba, for example, is said to wear more gold than a Saudi prince.

The knowledge that you cannot reasonably expect to take such earthly lure with you does not appear to have deterred Cerari, who presumably believed in a cyber-active afterlife, firing off e-mails from the depths of his white marble tomb. That view also seems to have carried weight with the usually sceptical Associated Press, which ran a headline yesterday announcing that "Moldova's gypsy king is dead – but not out of touch."

IN BRIEF

Menem rules out a third term

ARGENTINE President Carlos Menem announced yesterday he would not seek a third consecutive term in the 1999 presidential elections. The Peronist leader said only last week that he would ask the party to seek his re-election by any legal means possible. "I have resolved to exclude myself from any course of action which would make it possible to compete in 1999," Mr Menem said. He was first elected in 1989 and was re-elected with a landslide vote in 1995.

Green light for Russian reform

RUSSIA'S Prime Minister Sergei Kiriyenko said the Kremlin could press ahead with new revenue-raising measures after reducing its short-term debt burden and winning new credits from the IMF. Under the recent agreement with the IMF, Russia plans to run an overall budget deficit of 2.8 per cent in 1999, down from 5.8 per cent this year.

Bombs rock Macedonia capital

THREE strong explosions shook the Macedonian capital, causing considerable damage but no injuries. No group claimed responsibility for the blasts. However, the Kosovo Liberation Army, fighting for independence for the Serbian province of Kosovo, claimed responsibility for a series of explosions in January in three Macedonian towns in January.

Byzantine palace discovered

TURKISH archaeologists have stumbled upon what is believed to be part of a vast fifth-century Byzantine imperial palace buried beneath Istanbul's old city, museum officials said. Although the Byzantine imperial palace is well-documented, archaeologists had been unsure where to begin looking for the complex.

SUZANNE MOORE

Anna Ford should be applauded for telling it like it is, for blowing open the myth that everything in the workplace is equal.

—THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 3

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Bolivian Indians in festive mood. But many of their countrymen wonder whether there will be so much to celebrate under Gen Banzer

David Mercado/Reuters

Bolivians fear dictator-turned-democrat

WHEN PEASANTS and workers in Bolivia's Cochabamba Valley were protesting against dramatic price rises almost 25 years ago, the country's military dictator, General Hugo Banzer promised he was on his way in person to talk to them.

Instead he sent his troops in a column of armoured vehicles, backed by swooping fighter planes, for what later became known as "The massacre of the valley". The official version was that a peasant woman provoked the incident by throwing a stone at a tank, causing the column to open fire. Whatever the case, up to 200 peasants were left dead without a single military casualty.

Almost a quarter of a century on, the man who ordered the attack, General Banzer, now 72, is back in power, this time as democratically elected president, having hung up his uniform. Elected, yes. But hardly a popular figure.

In the presidential elections a year ago, "The General", as he is still known despite his retirement, won only 22 per cent of the votes at the head of his National Democratic Action (ADN) party. Because of the fragmentation of the other par-

BY PHIL DAVISON
in La Paz

ties and Bolivia's second-round run-off system he was eventually declared the winner. Far more people - 30 per cent - stayed away from the polls than voted for him.

"This is not the democracy we dreamed about. It's not the democracy those who died or disappeared were struggling for. This is a *democracia* [democracy], not a *democracia* [democracy]," said Bettina Suarez, a human rights activist whose husband was killed by the troops of another military regime in 1980.

Although Gen Banzer is now considered a bona fide democrat, his opponents worry about recent brutal police tactics used against coca farmers and fear he could resort to his old ways, when he ruled with an iron fist, closed down universities, assumed control of political parties and the press and presided over scores of deaths, tortures and disappearances.

Like other South American dictators, Gen Banzer received US military training at the School of the Americas in Fort Benning, Georgia. Despite a long-standing territorial dispute



Gen Banzer: Sent troops in against peasants

with Chile, which left Bolivia landlocked, he became friendly with Gen Augusto Pinochet, the man who overthrew that country's democratically elected government, as well as the military leaders of neighbouring Argentina and Paraguay.

"When he talks of human rights, it's a slap in the face for me," said Mrs Suarez, a leader of the Association of Families of the Disappeared. "The best word for him is that he's a cynic. The danger is that he now has the cover of a democracy. What he's doing in the Chapare [the main coca leaf-growing area] is barbaric."

She was referring to recent raids on coca fields by paramilitary police in which a dozen people, on both sides, were killed. The police are trying to eradicate illegal coca - the basis for cocaine - at the behest of the United States and the United Nations. The farmers, mostly Aymara or Quechua Indians, say they and their ancestors have been cultivating coca for centuries and that it is an essential livelihood.

While backing the coca eradication effort now, Gen Banzer was often accused of drug trafficking links during his military rule. The British academic and Latin American expert James Dunkerley has written that Gen Banzer is likely to have been involved in turning Bolivia into a cocaine-producing centre in the Seventies to counteract the collapse of the country's cotton industry.

In 1975, Gen Banzer's private secretary, Edwin Tapia, was arrested at Montevideo airport carrying a stash of cocaine. In the same operation, the general's son-in-law was found in possession of cocaine. Five years later, after his ouster, 300kg of cocaine were found in one of the general's haciendas.

He claimed that someone must have been using the ranch without his knowledge.

Gen Banzer, who took power in a 1971 coup and was himself overthrown by the officers in 1978, was lucky to avoid conviction for crimes against humanity. After his ouster, Congress began trying him for 234 separate crimes - mostly deaths, disappearances or torture cases - but the case was suspended after a further series of military coups and the assassination of the congressman who had led the accusations against him.

One of the military rulers who followed Gen Banzer, Gen Luis Garcia Meza, was not so lucky. He was sentenced in 1993 to 30 years in jail for genocide and other crimes, but many Bolivians accuse President

Banzer of providing Garcia Meza with soft prison conditions. Claiming illness, Garcia Meza has a private suite in a military hospital, with another suite he uses as a gymnasium and a third for his bodyguards. He is also reportedly allowed out during holiday periods.

During last year's election campaign, the Association of Families of the Disappeared ran television ads showing the faces of Garcia Meza and Banzer alternately on the screen. "This man [Garcia Meza], former dictator, responsible for multiple deaths and disappearances: serving 30 years in jail," it said. "This man [Banzer], former dictator: responsible for multiple deaths and disappearances: now running for president: will you vote for him?" Just enough people did.

Defence chiefs kill CNN gas story

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

THE PENTAGON yesterday said that it had no evidence that United States forces used lethal gas in Indochina during the Vietnam war, insisting that stocks of the gas were held at the Okinawa air base and were not transferred from there at any point. Prescinding a highly detailed report, compiled from documents, computer records and contemporary eyewitness accounts, the US Defense Secretary, William Cohen, sought to discredit once and for all a report broadcast by CNN in conjunction with Time magazine last month alleging the use of sarin gas against US detectors in Laos.

CNN and Time retracted the report, *Valley of Death*, two weeks ago, after an outside consultant had found insufficient evidence to support the claims. Two producers were dismissed, and a star foreign correspondent, Peter Arnett, was reprimanded. CNN admitted "serious mistakes" in the programme and issued an abject apology. But the producers, April Oliver and Jack Smith, have continued to defend their version, saying that as a covert operation there would be no documentary evidence of Operation Tailwind.

Mr Cohen and the Under Secretary for Defense, Rudy E. Leon, yesterday said that even covert operations were documented and that sarin gas would have produced quite different and more devastating effects than those observed. They quoted participants in the operation, including those who loaded the gas canisters, as confirming that they contained tear gas, not poison gas.

One complication that emerged from the report, however, related to the computerisation of records and the coding of gas canisters. The report said that an initial computer search for CBU-15 - the code for sarin gas - had turned up 2,000 uses, but a further search had turned up an error in the computer coding that confused a concentrated variety of tear gas (CBU-14) with CBU-15 after 1972. In fact, it established that no sarin gas was transferred to Indochina.

Taking part yesterday were representatives of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the CIA, who had all conducted their own investigations into the CNN allegations. There were also Tailwind participants. One of them, Major General Jack Singlaub, said he had been consulted by CNN and repeatedly told Ms Oliver: "April, it did not happen. You're on the wrong track."

The Defense Secretary announced his investigation on 9 June, two days after the programme was aired. Yesterday, he said he had taken the matter very seriously because of the aspersions it cast on US policy on curbing lethal weapons.

The *Washington Times* earlier reported that CNN had agreed to pay undisclosed damages to one of the chief sources for its story, Admiral Thomas Moorer, who was chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the time of Operation Tailwind, had complained that his words were distorted. CNN had been unable to reach a settlement with the commander of the operation, Colonel Eugene McCarthy, however, and he was pursuing a libel suit for a reported \$6m.

Ancient relations fail to get off on the right foot

AMERICAN TIMES
NEW MEXICO

WHEN SOMEONE sawed the right foot off a life-size statue of the Spanish conquistador Don Juan Onate, in northern New Mexico this January, John Garcia knew what he was up against.

Garcia, a thick-set Spanish speaker from Albuquerque with political ambitions, had volunteered himself and his public relations company to co-ordinate festivities for the 400th anniversary of the first Spanish settlement north of the Rio Grande. A direct descendant of the early Spanish settlers, Garcia was prepared for the egg-shell walking that would be needed, but even he was taken aback by the opposition.

The Indians, he says, "became very agitated". Six years ago they had suffered the 500th anniversary of the "discovery" of their continent by Christopher Columbus; now they faced a celebration of Onate's barbaric ways. Garcia concedes the difficulty. "Our success means their failure." But not to mark the Hispanic anniversary, he says, would be "unfair to Hispanic families who stayed here and endured... We must separate the war from the warrior".

But no one in the region of Alcalde, where Onate briefly lost his foot (now back in place), missed the symbolism. It was in January 1599 that Onate's men took revenge for a local tribe's reluctance to supply them with food by rounding up 24 of its warriors and severing their right feet.



The bronze statue of the Spanish settler Don Juan Onate - with his right foot hacked off

Truth or no, the folk memory of what happened at Alcalde, near what is now the city of Albuquerque, has endured for almost four centuries, poisoning relations between the indigenous Indian population and descendants of the Spanish settlers.

It was partly to try to draw the sting of such conflicts that John Garcia set up a joint group, with Indian representatives, to consider the significance of the anniversary and keep everyone informed.

A Vietnam veteran, now in his forties, Garcia helped organise the Vietnam war memorial in Washington. He would like the next Onate statue, at present the subject

of hot debate in Albuquerque, to resemble a memorial of suffering as well as of triumph.

My next Garcia could hardly have been more different. Napoleon "Paul" Garcia, as his business card reads, is a grey-haired mustachioed gentleman of casual garb, firm views and uncertain sociability, whom you encounter by chance or not at all.

I had ventured on a minor pilgrimage in the footsteps, or rather tyre tracks, of Georgia O'Keeffe, the painter who made the New Mexican landscape her own. O'Keeffe lived and painted there for half a century, residing at the small

TUESDAY

THURSDAY

SATURDAY

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

SKB shares fall on profit results

SHARES IN SmithKline Beecham dropped 32.5p yesterday as investors expressed their disappointment with the pharmaceutical giant's second-quarter results. In the three months to June, pre-tax profits rose 4 per cent to £362m, although SmithKline said the results, excluding the effects of currency movements, profits were up 10 per cent.

Jan Leschly, the chief executive, blamed the shortfall on the absence of flu outbreaks which depressed sales of Augmentin, the antibiotic that is SmithKline's best-selling drug. But he stressed that the company was still on track to meet its full-year double-digit growth target.

Investment column, page 21

Aston Villa in talks with investors



DOUG ELLIS, the veteran chairman of Aston Villa football club, admitted yesterday that he had held talks with a potential investor about taking a stake in the Premiership club. However, Mr Ellis said he had no intention of reducing his holding, which together with family interests, amounts to around 38 per cent. "I'm buying rather than selling," he said reflecting his disappointment at the club's share price, which has halved since it joined the market a year ago.

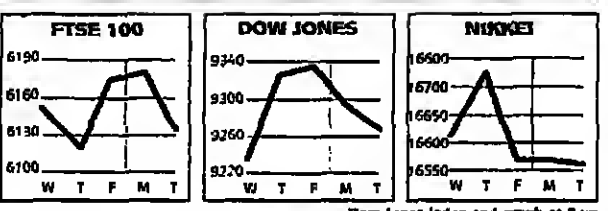
Mr Ellis said he thought a European super league was "only a matter of time" but that it would have to run in conjunction with the domestic season. Though Villa profits doubled last year to £10.8m excluding player transfers, season ticket sales have been slower after an 18 per cent price increase.

Investment column, page 21

Microsoft names first president

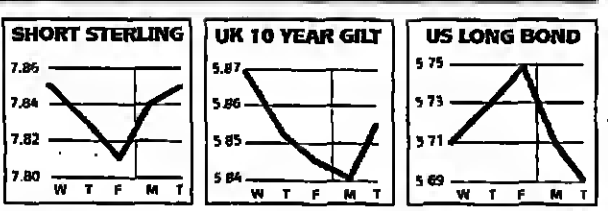
MICROSOFT is promoting executive vice-president Steve Ballmer to president of the world's leading software company, effective immediately. The move is being made to allow Microsoft chairman Bill Gates to focus on product strategy while allowing Mr Ballmer to focus on day-to-day running of the business, said Microsoft spokesman John Pinette. Chief operating officer Bob Herbold will continue in his position, Mr Pinette said. As executive vice president in charge of sales and support, Ballmer, 42, has been a driving force behind the Redmond, Washington-based company. Known for his bombastic presentations at company meetings, Ballmer has taken an active role in setting strategy and running the company's businesses.

STOCK MARKETS



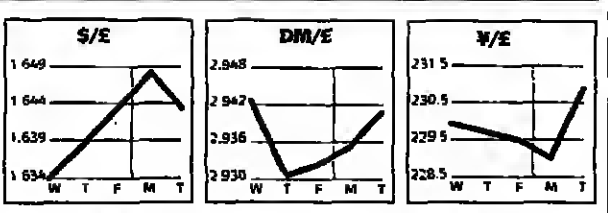
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	6132.70	-46.30	-0.75	6183.70	4382.80	3.67
FTSE 250	5703.70	-5.50	-0.10	5970.50	4428.30	3.39
FTSE 350	2946.90	-18.70	-0.63	2969.10	2141.80	3.62
FTSE All Share	2847.81	-17.36	-0.60	2886.52	2106.59	3.59
FTSE SmallCap	2589.20	-2.80	-0.11	2793.80	2182.10	3.21
FTSE Fledgling	1419.80	-1.90	-0.13	1517.10	1225.20	3.37
FTSE AIM	1102.10	3.10	0.27	1146.90	965.90	1.17
FTSE EBLDC 100	1122.70	-6.69	-0.59			
Dow Jones	9256.91	-28.61	-0.32	9367.84	6971.32	1.58
Nikkei	16556.69	-14.09	-0.09	20698.67	14489.21	0.92
Hang Seng	8564.55	71.30	0.84	15820.31	7351.68	4.78
Dax	6165.52	-5.91	-0.10	6199.58	3487.24	2.62

INTEREST RATES



Index	2 month	3 month	6 month	1 year	10 year	30 year	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	7.76	7.76	7.89	0.39	5.86	1.22	5.49	-1.46
US	5.69	-0.06	5.81	-0.22	5.46	-0.80	5.69	-0.83
Japan	0.66	0.02	0.68	-0.13	1.74	-0.82	2.30	-0.75
Germany	3.54	0.39	3.80	0.46	4.66	-0.91	5.28	-1.08

CURRENCIES



Index	at Spot	Change	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6433	-0.43c	1.6786
Mark	2.9409	+0.89pf	3.0135
Yen	230.72	+2.01	195.17
£ Index	104.70	+0.00	105.20

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	11.89	0.09	18.14
Gold (\$)	295.40	-0.60	325.63
Silver (\$)	5.42	0.03	4.32
GDP	114.80	3.00	111.46
RPI	163.40	3.70	157.57
Base Rates	7.50		6.75

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.5290	Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.20
Austria (schillings)	20.02	Netherlands (guilders)	3.2112
Belgium (francs)	58.85	New Zealand (\$)	2.9965
Canada (\$)	2.3866	Norway (krone)	12.11
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8341	Portugal (escudos)	289.24
Denmark (krone)	10.92	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.9969
Finland (markka)	8.7155	Singapore (\$)	2.6732
France (francs)	9.5497	Spain (pesetas)	241.17
Germany (marks)	2.9589	South Africa (rands)	9.9099
Greece (drachma)	470.93	Sweden (krone)	12.74
Hong Kong (\$)	12.37	Switzerland (francs)	2.4175
Ireland (pounds)	1.1324	Thailand (bahts)	60.35
India (rupees)	64.23	Turkey (liras)	626468
Israel (shekels)	5.5456	USA (\$)	1.6077
Italy (lira)	2824		
Japan (yen)	224.81		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.4913		
Malta (lira)	0.6214		

Rates for indication purposes only
Source: Thomas Cook

Daniel Hodson resigns as chief in shake-up at London's troubled futures exchange

Liffe brings back Williamson

BY LEA PATERSON

LIFFE, LONDON'S troubled futures and options exchange, has instigated a shake-up of top management in an attempt to regain its competitive edge.

Daniel Hodson, Liffe's much-maligned chief executive, has resigned, and Brian Williamson, one of Liffe's three founding members, has returned to the exchange as its first executive chairman.

Mr Hodson, who had until yesterday always fiercely denied rumours that he was intending to stand down, said: "It is time for new leadership with fresh vision and rekindled energy."

Mr Hodson, who will stand down at the end of the month, said he thought Brian Williamson was "exactly the right person for the task

ahead". His view was shared by traders on the floor of Liffe. "I'm very positive about the changes. Brian has great experience of managing the exchange and of leading from the front," said one.

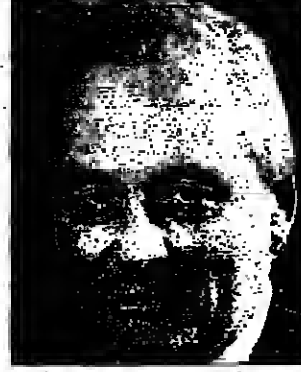
Mr Williamson, who was Liffe chairman between 1985 and 1988, said he was firmly behind the exchange's move to electronic trading, had an open mind on strategic alliances and was committed to meeting the demands of Liffe's users. He said his top priority was to put in a new chief executive, and an announcement is expected within weeks.

When asked about the qualities Liffe's new chief executive

would need, Mr Williamson said: "He is going to have to be pretty special. I want a good businessman, someone who is not afraid of risk and someone who will get on with people."

Traders said they were keen to see someone with good leadership qualities - one criticism of Mr Hodson has been that he did not push through changes at the exchange with sufficient vigour.

Mr Williamson - who was only contacted by the exchange last week - was upbeat about the future at Liffe, which has recently been losing out to its screen-based rivals such as the Frankfurt futures exchange. He said: "The City of London has the greatest pool of international talent in the



Brian Williamson: Open mind on alliances

world. Liffe's development of OTC derivative products (tailor-made derivative products) is proof Liffe can do a good job." The new Liffe chairman said he would be embarking on a

wide-ranging consultation with Liffe's customers. Mr Williamson, who through his chairmanship of the Gerrard Group has had substantial experience as a Liffe user, said: "The first thing I am going to do is to ask the customers what they want. I am much more interested in what they have to say than what chairmen of other exchanges have to say."

Mr Williamson gave his seal of approval to Liffe's move to electronic trading, saying his time on the advisory board of Nasdaq - the US electronic stock market - taught him about the importance of technology. According to Mr Williamson, the decision to move to electronic trading was a natural consequence of doing

what the customer wanted. The new Liffe chairman did not write off open outcry altogether, although he admitted the opportunities for open outcry to add value to the customer were "small in number".

Mr Williamson said he was not opposed to the idea of strategic alliances, such as the one recently announced between Deutsche Börse and the London Stock Exchange. "If the consensus of the major users say that is what must be done, then I will do my best to effect that," he said.

In order to devote as much time as possible to Liffe, Mr Williamson is standing down as chairman of the Gerrard Group and from three other public company directorships.

Tight labour market worries the Fed

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

AMERICA FACES a greater risk from accelerating inflation than from imminent slowdown, Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve said yesterday.

The top central banker gave a measured assessment of the US economy in his semi-annual Humphrey Hawkins testimony to Congress, saying that it was still on track for continued non-inflationary growth. But he pinpointed the labour market as the key concern, warning that without some deceleration in growth, wage inflation might force the Fed to act.

"While we expect that the situation will develop relatively smoothly, the Committee believes that, given the current tightness in labour markets, the potential for accelerating inflation is probably greater than the risk of protracted, excessive weakness in the economy," he said.

The Fed predicts economic growth for this year of 3.3-3.5 per cent, and 2.5 per cent next. Inflation is expected to pick up from 1.75-2 per cent to 2.5 per cent in 1999. Unemployment is forecast to remain in its current range, at about 4.5-4.7 per cent. The Fed has kept its ranges for monetary aggregates the same as last year, and barring any unforeseen changes will maintain them for 1999 as well.

The economy grew very rapidly in the first quarter of the year, at about 5.5 per cent, but has slowed markedly in the second quarter as slowdowns in stocks, the General Motors



Mr Greenspan yesterday, with Senator Alfonse D'Amato, chairman of the Senate Banking Committee. US economic slowdown is no longer main concern

strikes and the Asian slump have taken the edge off. However, Mr Greenspan said that he was not yet convinced of the slowdown, dampening the hopes of some economists for a further cut in interest rates. As inflation has fallen and nominal short-term interest rates have remained the same, there has, if anything, been a *de facto* tightening of the Fed's stance as real short-term interest rates have risen.

There was no overt reference to raising interest rates, and Mr Greenspan implicitly, on balance, sees no need to take action now. But there were clear warnings for the future. "Should pressures on labour resources begin to show through more impressively in cost increases, policy action may need

to counter any associated tendency for prices to accelerate before it undermines this extraordinary expansion," he said. "Labour markets... became increasingly tight during the first half." But, he added, productivity had continued to rise, and while it did so in pace with the growth in the labour market, there was no necessity to check wage growth. Downward cost pressures from Asia also helped to keep inflation in check.

But while his primary concern, as a good central banker, was inflation, Mr Greenspan also warned that the slowdown in Asia could hurt the American economy. And this needed to be taken into account in any decisions about interest rates, he said. "We need to be aware that

monetary policy tightening actions in the US could have outsize effects on very sensitive financial markets in Asia, a development that could have substantial adverse repercussions on US financial markets and, over time, our own economy."

However, the primary focus of US policymaking remains the domestic economy, he added. Mr Greenspan continued to swipe at lax lending policies by banks and to warn the stock market obliquely that it has yet to accommodate to slower growth and lower profit margins. Financial markets took a sanguine view of his comments. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell marginally on his comments, recovering to stand at 9266.14 (6.00pm EST). Bond prices were little changed.

Nationwide carpetbaggers swept aside

BY ANDREW VERITY

NATIONWIDE, the world's biggest building society, will today announce that carpetbaggers standing for election to its board have been decisively defeated for the second year in a row.

Michael Hardern, the part-time freelance butler running for director for the second time, and Andrew Muir, a 32-year-old recruitment consultant from Slough, will be told later today that they have been defeated by a significant majority.

While the official result will not be announced until 3pm, Nationwide's senior executives learned the outcome of the election by the end of yesterday. Their mood was described as "chirpy".

Mr Hardern said yesterday: "I just wanted to say - I am the father of mutualism. I'm going to claim that title because they honestly wouldn't have discovered what the word meant if it hadn't been for me."

Sources close to the society's senior executives said their mood was "unruffled" by the outcome of the vote for board members, which just two weeks ago was described as split down the middle and too close to call.

"The fact that the sensible directors [the incumbent members of Nationwide's board] will get elected is impeccable - it couldn't be more impeccable. The carpetbagging candidates will lose," a source said.

However, while the vote on elections to the board of directors has been decisive, a separate vote on converting to a bank is described by sources close to the matter as "much closer".

As well as rejecting Mr Hardern and Mr Muir, more than 2 million members of Nationwide have voted on three

proposals urging the society to take immediate steps to convert to a bank.

The result of the vote on conversion will be closer than that for the board members. Both the candidate carpetbaggers have no experience in financial services and were asked to be put in charge of a society worth up to £10bn.

But Nationwide is also expected to win the vote on conversion, even if it is by a much narrower margin than the rejection of the carpetbaggers in the other ballot.

City observers yesterday quashed speculation that a narrow win on the conversion vote would force Nationwide to seek a trade buyer. Lloyds Bank has been touted as a likely suitor. One analyst said: "Even if Nationwide won by just one vote, a bid by Lloyds would be suicide. It would be tantamount to claiming that the majority of members of Nationwide were wrong."



Michael Hardern: Second decisive ballot defeat

Stock Exchange investigates Regent dealings

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

THE STOCK Exchange is investigating share dealings by the former finance director of pub operator Regent Inns ahead of a profits warning made by the company last month.

Clive Watson, who left the business in May, sold shares worth around £1.4m in 12 sep-

arate tranches between February and early June.

Regent Inns' shares fell sharply later that month after the company issued a profits warning on 22 June.

A spokesman for Mr Watson

said: "It is true that Mr Watson sold shares after he retired as finance director of Regent Inns in February 1998 having given the board his resignation in September 1997. These sales were to fund his new business ventures. The share options he sold in June this year after he completed his handover to the

new finance director, were with the permission of Regent Inns directors and any suggestion that he had any prior knowledge of the profits warning, which came as a complete surprise to him, is untrue."

Mr Watson stepped down as a director at the time of Regent's half-year results in Feb-

ruary. He subsequently sold 424,000 shares at prices of around 340p per share.

The largest tranche of shares was 135,000 just after the results.

The latest was in June when he cashed in £40,000 worth of share options.

Although Mr Watson re-

signed in September and stepped down in February, he did not leave until May because he had agreed to stay on to hand over his responsibilities to his successor.

A spokesperson for Mr Watson added that he retained 353,000 shares in the business.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

FOOTSTLE's six-day winning run came to an abrupt halt, with a 46.3-point fall to 6133.7.

The market spent much of the session waiting for US banking chief Alan Greenspan's testimony to Congress. There was relief that he seemed relaxed about US interest rates, which helped shares end slightly stronger. Banking shares were weak ahead of the results season, but HSBC bucked the trend, up 32p to 1.673p on the 0.4 per cent stake bought by Swiss investor Martin Eberer.

Derek Pain, page 21

NEW YORK

THE DOW Jones Index trimmed losses but was still negative after Fed Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan warned that interest rates might have to be raised if job growth, demand did not slow and said inflation risk outweighed downside risks from Asia. At 17:59 London time, the Dow stood at 9266.14, down 29.61 points.

US bonds headed lower in late morning but reaction was muted in currency markets with the dollar drifting higher against both the Japanese yen and the German mark.

HONG KONG

HONG KONG stocks finished up as buying for HSBC Holdings shares lifted the blue chip Hang Seng index, otherwise trading was thin, brokers said. The Hang Seng rose 71.30 points, or 0.84 per cent, to end at 8,564.55. "I believe people bought HSBC Holdings for hedging and the trading volume of the banking giant accounted for nearly 30 per cent of today's total turnover," said Peter Lai at OCBC Securities. Reports that Swiss asset manager Martin Eberer had last week taken a stake in HSBC also encouraged buying for the counter, brokers said.

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN SHARES closed lower despite traders' relief after news about new IMF credits and a successful debt conversion scheme were discounted. The RTS index lost 4.7 per cent to 183.95 as traders said the market had already priced in a successful swap of short-term debt for new eurobonds and the IMF's approval of new credits, which both happened late on Monday. "Everybody is waiting for a reaction from the West, which has not appeared yet," said Alfa Capital trader Dmitry Sirotnin.

FRANKFURT

THE BENCHMARK Dax index surrendered its hold on 6,200 and fell into negative territory, knocked lower on interest rate and inflation warnings from US Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan. The news knocked the DAX down from about 6,210 to close 99 points off at 6,184.1. Above all, Mr Greenspan's comments hit export-driven stocks, with BMW giving up DM15 within minutes of the start of the Fed chief's Humphrey-Hawkins testimony. Earlier the DAX touched an all-time high of 6,217.85.

CBI looks to Mr twenty per cent

FOR a businessman whose credo is 20 per cent profits growth a year and hang the unions, Sir Clive Thompson is remarkably modest in his ambitions for the Confederation of British Industry. The chief executive of Renold Initial says that he will judge his two year reign as CBI president a success if he is able to leave the organisation much as he found it.

He will be "delighted", he says, if the CBI still has as many members then as now. It would be a "pleasure" for the CBI still to be in a position to influence government policy. It would be nice to think that the CBI's Eurosceptic wing could be brought round on the single currency but everyone has the right to their point of view. Gosh. And is there honey still for tea and stands the dock at ten to three? What a reassuring picture of continuity and stability Sir Clive paints.

Perhaps he has been taking lessons in compliance from his predecessor, Sir Colin Marshall, who began his presidency backing John Major for re-election and ended it being embroiled by Tony Blair as a fully paid up member of New Labour.

A true picture of Sir Clive's views emerged at the CBI's annual dinner a couple of months ago when the hour was late and the port was



OUTLOOK

passing freely. Sir Clive quipped about applying his famous pest control techniques to the trades unions and generally poured scorn on Mr Blair's Third Way.

Some of that came out yesterday when Sir Clive was paraded before the Press, even though it was couched in more diplomatic language. It would be no surprise to see a harder, more robust edge developing in the CBI's relations with the Government as the months roll by.

All of which will make for interesting times at Centre Point, and nowhere more so than in the newly refurbished offices of the CBI's director general "Red" Adair Turner. Sir Clive could not hear enough praise on his DG yesterday, for his

knowledge and intelligence and, not least, for the piece of creative accounting which has miraculously rescued the CBI from a £5m "negative reserve" and returned it to solvency. Sir Clive and Mr Turner both profess not to recognise their respective reputations as unreconstructed Thatcherite and model New Labourite. They will rub along just fine, we are told.

All the same, it would be amazing if there were no sparks. And if that sharpens up the CBI's edge in its dealings with the Government, it will be no bad thing.

Liffe's man of the future

LIFFE SEEMS to have made an inspired choice in Brian Williamson as his new executive chairman - it might be said that it is about time Liffe did something inspired. The hidden hand of the Bank of England must surely have been in there somewhere. As a former chairman of Liffe and one of the four some who helped set up the futures exchange in the early 1980s, he's certain to go down well with the membership.

Morale among traders and officials alike could hardly be lower; a

popular choice will provide a much needed boost. More important, however, Mr Williamson approaches the job with some genuinely fresh ideas about how to develop the market and exploit London's strengths as a financial centre.

Some of these are borrowed from Nasdaq, the US electronic stock market where Mr Williamson served as a governor until last April. The most important lesson to be learnt from the success of Nasdaq is that it is wrong and complacent for exchanges to think of themselves as grand old institutions with a God given right to exist. Rather they should regard themselves as businesses serving the interests of members and customers.

When Nasdaq discovered that many of its members were developing their own proprietary trading systems, which in some cases were faster, cheaper and less regulated than its own, it successfully responded in kind with even better and faster systems. Staying ahead of the game in terms of technology and software is key to success in financial markets. There is no reason stock or futures exchanges should be any different.

One form of fragmentation among financial exchanges - that of

geography, nation and region - is rapidly giving way to another - that of systems and technology. As fast as national and regional markets consolidate, merge and link one with another, technology allows competing cross border systems to spring up, many of them cheaper and more user friendly.

Thus Liffe, with its sentimental attachment to open outcry, has found itself trounced by the Deutsche Terminboerse's screen based system on the all important German bund contract. This is out because the business has drifted back to Frankfurt. It hasn't. The majority of bund trading still takes place in London, but rather than going through Liffe, it is now being conducted via the Frankfurt based system.

This is the way of the future, and if Liffe is to survive and prosper, it must learn to leapfrog its competitors in the same manner. Mr Williamson seems to understand these things better than his predecessors.

Most important of all is the recognition that the big growth in derivatives these days is not so much in the standard, off the peg products provided by the likes of Liffe, but in customised over the counter offerings, London is streets ahead of any

rival financial centre in over the counter business. Liffe already provides the pricing benchmarks for these products but it doesn't derive any value or business from them. If Liffe could find a way of exploiting the OTC market, it might provide a whole new beginning. But as Mr Williamson is only too aware, many others are thinking in exactly the same way.

No big bang for communications

SO THE Government has rejected a radical, big bang approach to reform of the way communications companies are regulated, and instead opted for "the evolutionary path" to coping with the onset of the digital age. Who would have expected anything else of New Labour? What this seems to mean is that the four organisations presently involved in regulating telecommunications and broadcasting - Ofcom, the Office of Fair Trading, the Independent Television Commission and the DTI - will carry on much as they are, only they will be expected to work more closely together than they have been.

Well there's a thing. Anyone who gets past the executive summary of

yesterday's DTI green paper, Regulating Communications: approaching convergence in the digital age, will be doing well.

This is not a document that seems to add much to the debate about how public policy should respond to the convergence of telecommunications and broadcasting. At present, all four regulators find themselves constantly stepping on each other's toes, while the combination found in the ITC of responsibility for both content and economic regulation of some parts of commercial TV seems strangely out of place in the modern world.

The really important issue issue of how to protect public service broadcasting while at the same time allowing ITV the freedom it needs to develop and respond to an increasingly competitive world, is hardly addressed at all.

The obvious answer to this, as Gerry Robinson, chairman of Granada, and others, have repeatedly said, is to ensure protection of public service broadcasting in a licence-funded BBC while letting ITV get on and do its own thing in an unregulated free for all. Labour may get there eventually but there are a good few evolutionary leaps yet to be made before it does.

IN BRIEF

Midshires chief may stand down

MIKE JACKSON, the chief executive of Birmingham Midshires, is expected to stand down if Halifax's £780m bid for the society succeeds.

Mr Jackson broke off a £530m deal with Royal Bank of Scotland in February. Birmingham Midshires has been seeking to secure terms from the Halifax similar to those offered by Royal Bank of Scotland, which included a guarantee of no job cuts for three years and a retention of the Midshires brand. But it is suggested that Halifax is now unwilling to match all of Royal Bank's promises.

Kingston buyout

KINGSTON Communications, the municipally-owned telecoms operator, has sold Kingston SCL its software business, to a management buyout team for £65m.

Kingston SCL is a leading provider of billing software and counts telecoms giants such as British Telecom and France Telecom among its customers. The buyout of SCL, which employs 500 staff, is being supported by venture capitalists 3i and the Royal Bank of Scotland's Development Capital arm.

Telecoms delay

THE INTRODUCTION of a service which allows telephone users to select long-distance telecoms operators automatically has been delayed beyond its original start date. Ofcom, the telecoms watchdog, announced yesterday.

Due to technical changes required, BT will not be ready to start carrier pre-selection by January 2000 as required by the European Commission, but will introduce it later in the year. Carrier pre-selection allows telephone users to use different telecoms operators without first having to dial a complex code.

Bols sold to CVC

THE TROUBLED five-year marriage between Dutch spirits manufacturer Bols and food group Wessanen ended yesterday, as Royal BolsWessanen sold its Bols Vodka Distilleries to CVC Capital Partners, the venture capital group. The distiller, which generates annual turnover of about 500m guilders (£150m), is being sold in a deal which will generate "substantial" 1998 book profits.

Japan bribe case

THE JAPANESE Ministry of Finance has dismissed former securities bureau deputy chief Takashi Sakakibara and inspector Toshio Miyano, four months after their indictment on charges of accepting bribes from brokerage houses, ministry officials said.

In a court hearing for Mr Miyano, who has been on leave along with Mr Sakakibara since 25 March, the prosecution demanded Mr Miyano pay fines of 5.36m yen (£24,000) and be jailed for three years. The ministry also sanctioned five former superiors of the two men, with pay cuts or admonitions.

News Analysis: After a run of soaring profits and shares, the bank sector is facing tougher times

Banking's glitter begins to fade

BY LEA PATERSON

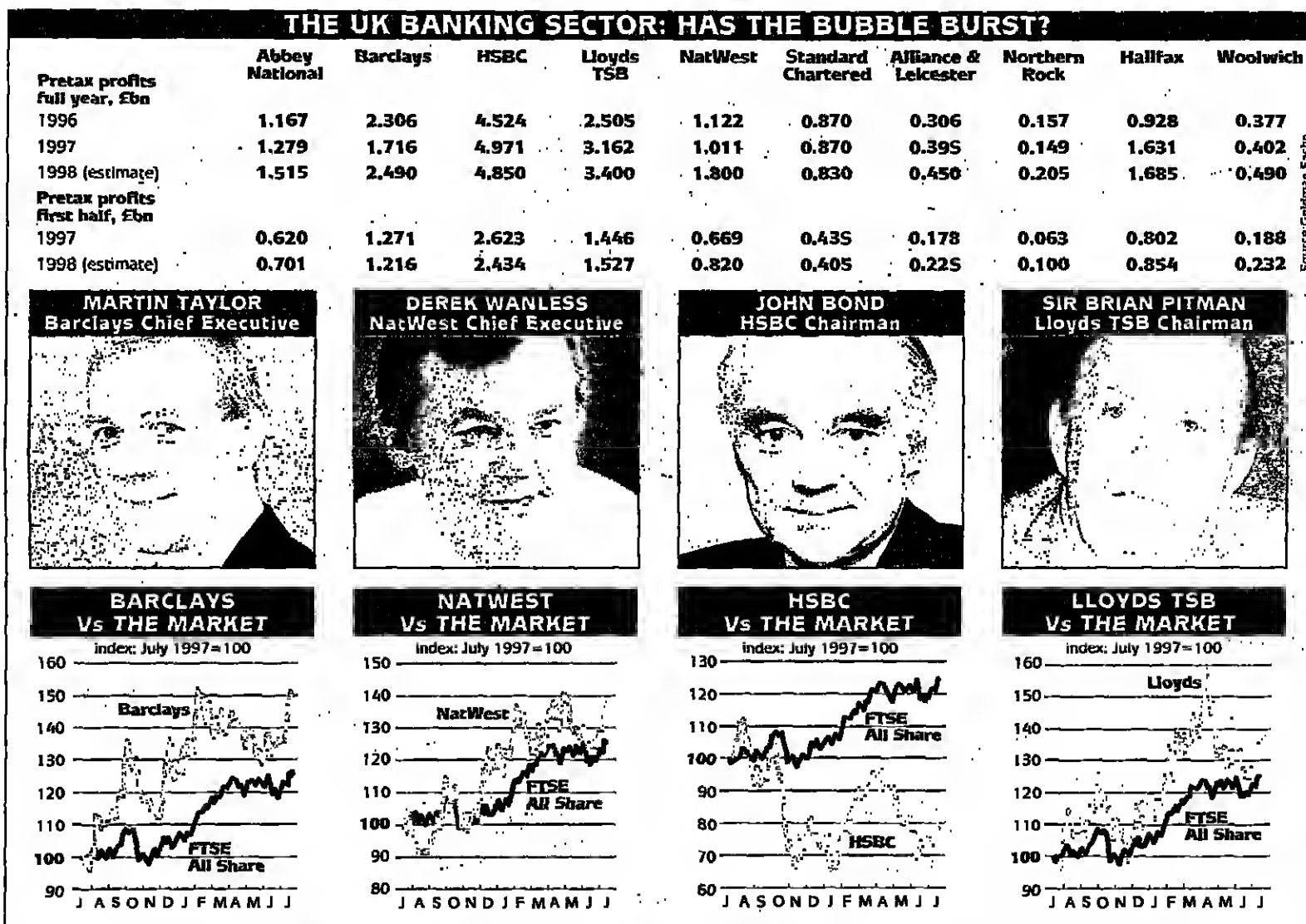
LATER THIS week, Northern Rock will kick off the banking reporting season when it sets out details of its first-half profits. The recently-demutualised Northern Rock - like most of the 10 UK banks scheduled to report first-half figures over the next fortnight - is widely expected to announce record earnings.

Indeed, with one or two notable exceptions, UK banks have had a cracking run over the last year or two, enjoying more or less uninterrupted growth in profits and soaring share prices. Banking shares have figured among the top tips of most City pundits, and those small investors with the sense to hang on to their building society windfall shares have been well rewarded. But with growing competition in the sector, a tougher regulatory stance and a slowing UK economy, is the City's love affair with the sector coming to an end?

Some say the popularity of the UK banks is already on the wane. In recent weeks, a number of leading City brokers have downgraded profit forecasts, citing a range of concerns from deteriorating credit quality to fierce competition in the mortgage market to the costs of sorting out the pensions mis-selling debacle. And although banking shares are still - broadly speaking - doing well, most banks are trading off the record highs earlier this year. Is this a temporary blip, or has the banking bubble burst?

Worries about the UK economic outlook are uppermost in the minds of many banking analysts at the moment. The UK economy is slowing more sharply than commentators were predicting just a few months ago. Although economists generally agree that the economy is unlikely to tip into recession, most experts have downgraded their forecasts for output growth.

A slowing economy means banks are likely to see in-



creases in bad debts, and this, say experts, could hit profits.

John Leonard, banking analyst at Salomon Smith Barney, said: "With our current economic forecasts, the outlook for the banks is acceptable. But if things slow further, you'll begin to see weaknesses in both revenue growth and credit quality."

It is not just the outlook for the UK economy that is bothering the experts. HSBC - owner of Midland Bank - and Standard Chartered both have substantial Asian operations. And both have seen their

shares fall from favour since the Asian financial crisis began to take hold in the autumn. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson has become the latest broker to trim profits forecasts for HSBC, and continues to hold a "sell" recommendation on Standard Chartered. The DKB banking team believes: "Forthcoming results from both banks will be the first to show the earnings decline that we believe will last for two years."

Mr Leonard at Salomon Smith Barney highlights another potential cloud on the horizon

for the UK banks - a tougher regulatory stance. Shares in Northern Rock fell 10 per cent on the day the Office of Fair Trading announced it was investigating allegations of unfair contract terms following a decision by the bank to restructure its postal savings accounts.

Northern Rock has since announced changes to its management of savings accounts, and no company-specific action has been taken by the OFT. However, the watchdog is in the middle of a wide-ranging investigation of the UK banking

sector. According to Salomons, all UK banks could end up with higher compliance costs following the investigation.

Regulatory concerns are not limited to banks' management of savings accounts. The heavy costs of sorting out pensions mis-selling have hit margins for almost all UK financial institutions. Lloyds TSB is expected to make additional provisions to cover pensions mis-selling costs this half, and most analysts expect Lloyds' rivals to follow.

Additional pressures could come from the Government,

which has shown concern about the issue of so-called "financial exclusion" - the difficulties experienced by some people in securing access to standard banking services. If banks become obliged to provide a bank account to everyone who wants one, the impact on the bottom line could be substantial.

Competition between banks is becoming ever fiercer. Now that Barclays and NatWest have downgraded their investment banking ambitions, analysts expect them to concentrate firepower on the

retail market. Both Halifax and Abbey National are trying to beef up their own mortgage business in an attempt to reduce reliance on income from the highly-competitive mortgage market.

Historically, different companies targeted different segments of financial services - banks offered current accounts, building societies provided mortgages, insurers provided insurance, and so on. Now the boundaries between different financial services have become blurred - banks, building societies and insurers compete with one another for all types of business. And technological and cultural developments have allowed a number of new entrants such as Virgin to break into banking. The result is that all financial services companies are feeling the pinch on margins.

To say that the outlook for the banking sector is bleak is overstating the point. The UK economy may be slowing, but it is a long way from recession. The Asian crisis may have deepened, but its impact has been limited to a handful of UK banks which have so far controlled their exposure to the region well. UK regulators may be cracking down, but the financial implications are likely to be small compared to total bank earnings. And, although competition between banks may be growing, particularly in the mortgage market, this hasn't stopped institutions like Lloyds TSB and Northern Rock from increasing their market shares. Consolidation would also help to relieve pressure on margins.

What is at stake is that the remarkably benign environment that the UK banks have enjoyed to date looks like it is drawing to a close. The recent easing in bank share prices looks like the beginning of a long-term trend, not a temporary blip. The experts seem united - if banks want to continue enjoying record levels of earnings growth, they are going to have to work out how to

Stagecoach bids for longer rail franchise

STAGECOACH, the bus, rail and airports group, is to press for an extension to its seven-year franchise to run South West Trains and has pledged to invest up to £300m in new rolling stock if its bid is successful.

The group will commit itself to improving punctuality and service standards on the line in an attempt to persuade the franchising director to agree an extension, probably to 15 years.

The South West Trains franchise is due to run out in 2003 and involves the payment of £367m in subsidies to Stagecoach. The generous level of support reflects the fact that it was one of the first deals struck under the previous Conservative government's rail privatisation programme.

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

Mike Kinski, Stagecoach's chief executive, said: "Franchise extensions are back on the agenda and we are keen to renew the franchise subject to sensible terms."

South West Trains' operating profits rose from £8m to £22m last year after subsidies of £63m. Stagecoach is investing £100m on a fleet of 30 new Class 458 trains which will be introduced from this autumn.

Depending on the duration of the extension, the company would replace its remaining 90 Mark 1 slam-door trains at a cost of up to £300m, says Stagecoach. In return, it would expect to continue receiving subsidy for the life of the franchise.

Unveiling a 32 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £158.5m, in line with the group's forecast in April, Mr Kinski indicated that Stagecoach had the capacity to invest a further £400m in acquisitions. It is looking for further leasing deals for its Porterbrook train leasing business and is keen to acquire more airports to add to Prestwick airport which it bought for £41m earlier this year.

Mr Kinski said the Government's transport White Paper was positive for its bus operations and neutral for its train businesses. The shares fell 54p, or 3.5 per cent, to 1,350p due to profit taking and disappointment that there were few unexpected measures in the White Paper.

Millennium bug 'will slow the world economy down'

THE COSTS of fixing the millennium computer bug will lead to slower economic growth and higher inflation until well into the next millennium, according to a study released today.

Oxford Economic Forecasting, the leading think-tank, has calculated that the costs of preparing computer systems for the millennium computer bug, and the disruptive effects of some computer networks crashing after the turn of the century, will slow world gross domestic product growth by 0.3 per cent a year.

The figure sounds relatively small. But 0.3 per cent of the US economy is worth \$30bn. Moreover, the figure has a large effect because it continues over an extended period of time.

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

OEF calculates that, in today's money, the cumulative cost of the millennium problem is 6 per cent of the world's GDP. This year, the world economy is widely expected to grow by around 2.3 per cent.

OEF divides its study into two parts: First, it looks at the costs of fixing systems that suffer from the problem, which arises when computers store the year as a two-figure number.

This makes it impossible for them to tell the difference between the year 1900 and the year 2000, and raises the possibility that entire networks may crash after the millennium. Fixing the problem, which in-

volves re-writing huge swathes of computer code, is costing companies a fortune. Current estimates suggest that a total of \$450bn will be spent on converting computer systems.

According to OEF, this spending is largely wasted, in the sense that it does little to improve the efficiency of the economy.

Although the study acknowledges that some companies will use the cash to upgrade computer systems and install new software, OEF reckons no more than 25-30 per cent of the spending is productive for the companies involved.

As a result, this spending is a drag on world growth, because it diverts cash from projects that would have improved

the productivity of the economy to areas where it is largely wasted. Because the economy then has less spare capacity, it will be more prone to overheating and inflation.

OEF also attempts to estimate the disruptive effects of computer systems crashing. Although it is hard to guess what will happen, OEF points out that firms may change their behaviour - by, say, closing down for a week after the New Year - even if the effects turn out to be fairly limited.

The study points out that infrastructure failures such as the breakdown of electricity or telecom networks would be most costly. It also argues that disruption could trigger a stock market crash.

Young's sees off the City in real ale battle

WANDSWORTH town hall in London has seen some political scraps between Labour and Tory but yesterday there was different theatre on offer: local industry – in this case Young's, the brewer – versus the City.

Dressed in a white suit, perhaps to denote the good guy, was the 77-year-old brewing patriarch John Young, playing in front of a home crowd of real ale and real British industry fans.

In the dark suit was a 37-year-old New Zealander, Blake Nixon, representing Guinness Peat Group and the forces of darkness in the minds of most attending the Young's annual general meeting.

On theatricals Mr Young won hands down although he had left at home the boxing gloves he had brought to a previous agm.

Yesterday his only prop was a dog's muzzle, which he threw into the air, saying he would not be stopped from speaking

about his company's success.

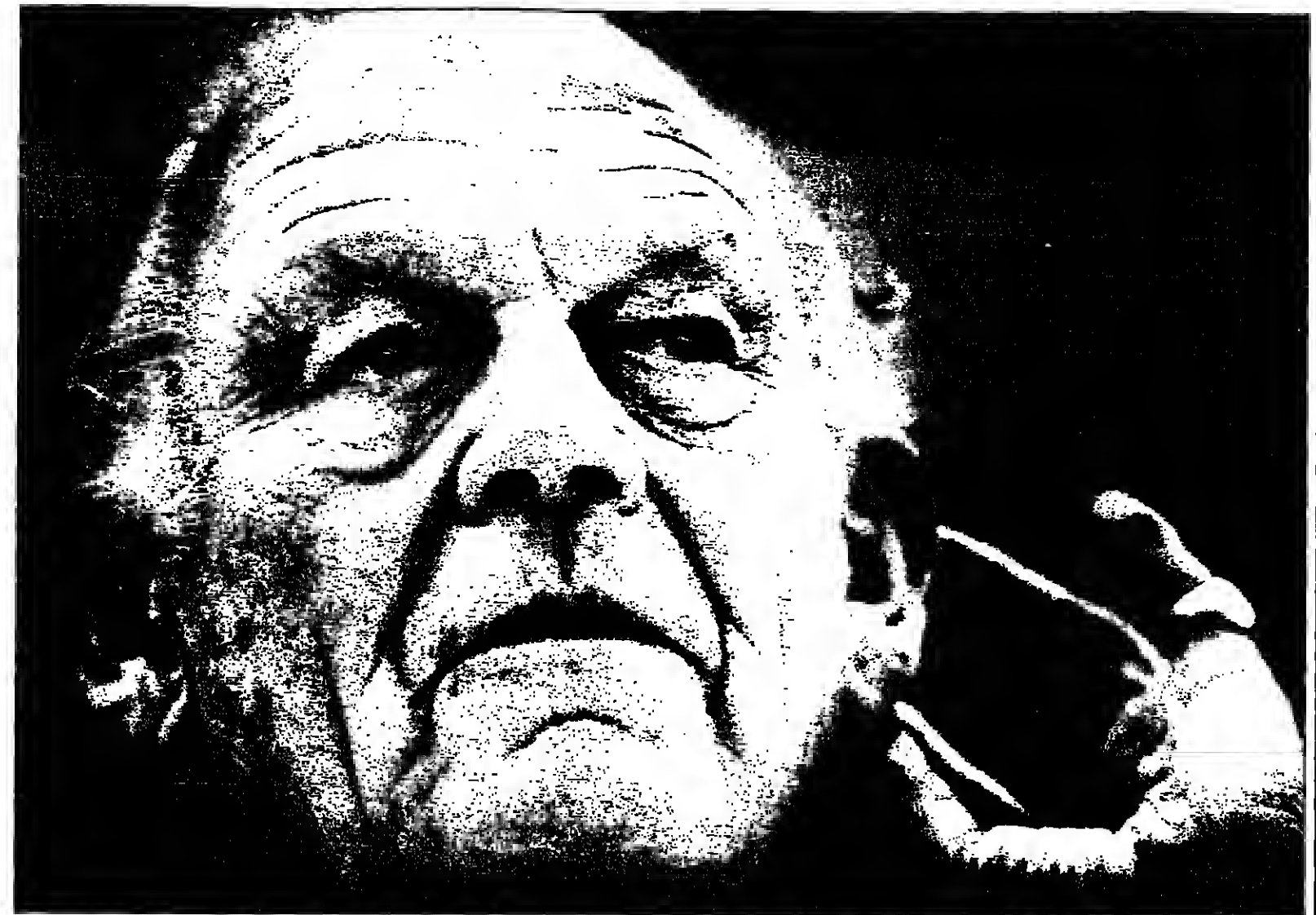
Mr Young, flanked by other members of his family, played the patriot card, saying enough of British industry had fallen into foreign hands.

The message was clear: if Guinness Peat got its way, Young's would be hung up to dry in the City, forced to sell its brewery or sold off completely.

The Young's chairman occasionally lost the plot but his sheer bravado kept the home crowd behind him. By contrast, the calm and clinical words of Mr Nixon did nothing for the Young's loyalists.

His Antipodean background alone condemned him, in the eyes of one Camra real ale campaigner, who put the sorry state of the British beer industry down to the activities of "Aussie brewers".

But there were no XXXX words from Mr Nixon, who



John Young, the 77-year-old brewing patriarch, resisting demands for a change in voting structure at yesterday's meeting Neville Elder

avoided the personal but did not pull his punches when it came to attacking what he saw as the poor record of Young's management generally.

He insisted his only interest was to unlock shareholder value for everyone. If the company wanted to raise money for acquisitions it would need a more appropriate voting structure, he insisted, dismissing suggestions that this would endanger the independence of the 400-year-old Wandsworth brewer.

But few wanted to hear his message. He was told by one shareholder, Robbie Macfarlane, to "leave us alone and go home," while Kate Dobson, a charmingly ferocious 66-year-old, told Mr Nixon he should be ashamed of himself.

She had three sons in the City and if any of them acted like he had done she would give them a sound thrashing, she said.

Mr Nixon, a former rugby player, seemed only slightly taken aback. He insisted he had not meant to be impolite and had only come along after failing to reach agreement with Mr Young beforehand.

Guinness Peat will not be going away. "We will keep up the pressure until the [Young's share] price is at its right level – £10," said Mr Nixon. Yesterday the voting shares were steady at 807.5p.

The result of the voting that took place was over in doubt. Guinness Peat had come to call for changes in the Young's voting structure.

Given that the Young family owns 60 per cent of the voting rights, it was inevitable that a series of four Guinness Peat resolutions would be heavily defeated by proxy.

But Guinness Peat claimed afterwards it had secured a enough votes – two-to-one of publicly held shares – to put the Young's board under a "fiduciary duty" to make changes.

Diageo to lose Wild Turkey rights

BY TERRY MACALISTER

DIAGEO, the world's largest spirits group, is to lose its distribution rights of Wild Turkey bourbon in Japan and the US, its biggest market. Wild Turkey's owner, Pernod Richard, plans to go it alone in a move which has triggered fears that others could follow suit.

Diageo's shares fell 19.5p to 755p after Pernod Richard said it wanted to take back the rights for Wild Turkey which expire later this year in Japan and early next year in the US.

"We think both in the US and Japan we can do better commercially," said a spokesman for Pernod. He added that Pernod is seeking to unravel equity links which pre-date Diageo's merger with Grand Metropolitan which led to Diageo's creation.

Diageo shrugged off the Pernod move as a typical result of a merger. A spokesman said: "There are only a handful of deals like this around the world, but most of our volumes come from our own brands anyway."

The distribution deal between Pernod and GrandMet was signed 15 years ago. Pernod is unhappy to have found itself competing with rival bourbons, such as George Dickel, when Diageo was set up.

The future of Diageo's other distribution agreements "depends on whether there are conflicts between brands," said Mark Pulek, an analyst at Merrill Lynch in London.

Diageo is already fighting in the US courts to prevent the Mexican tequila maker, Jose Cuervo, from trying to take back its North American distribution rights. The Mexican company argues that the Diageo merger represents a change of ownership allowing it to renegotiate the agreement before its 2010 expiry date.

There is also speculation about whether Diageo could lose its distribution agreement with Kentucky-based Brown-Forman, for which it distributes Jack Daniels and Southern Comfort in the UK.

Airtours buys Direct Holidays for £81m

TWO SCOTTISH brothers were catapulted into the ranks of the UK's richest men yesterday after they sold their direct sales holiday company to Airtours for £81m.

John and Hugh Boyle will net £42m and £14m respectively after selling Direct Holidays to the UK's second-largest tour operator. Director and co-founder Paul Chestnutt will also pick up £4m, while an

other £4m will be shared out among staff members. The remaining £16m will go to the Royal Bank of Scotland, which holds a 20 per cent stake in the business.

This is the second fortune for John Boyle, who sold Falcon Holidays to Owners Abroad (now renamed First Choice Holidays) for £2.2m in 1982. Mr Boyle is a former "Entrepreneur of the Year" in Scotland and is one of the best-known businessmen north of the border.

The deal is significant for Airtours as it was previously the only one of the leading three tour operators without a business in the direct-sales market, which analysts say is growing rapidly in the UK.

Around 13 million Britons buy holiday packages every year, 1 million of them bought from the direct-sell market.

Direct Holidays, which is based in Glasgow, has 24 per cent of this market, with an annual passenger number of 230,000. It is second to Fortland Holidays, owned by Thomson, which has half a million passengers and 50 per cent of the total market. The other main

player is Eclipse, owned by First Choice, with a 15 per cent share.

Airtours is funding the deal through a placing of 18.5 million new shares at 415p. Airtours shares closed at 450.5p, up 7.5p.

Airtours' acquisition of Direct comes a month after First Choice scooped up the tour operators Unijet and Hayes & Jarvis in a double deal worth £134m, giving further impetus to the consolidation of Britain's air tourism sector.

David Crossland, Airtours' chairman, said: "Airtours will work with Direct to develop and grow the business and take full advantage of the considerable synergies and opportunities for profitable growth."

Direct, which sells directly to the customer and by-passes travel agents, operates tours from Glasgow, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Manchester and Newcastle airports. In the last five years its turnover has grown from £11m to £66m in the year to last September, during which it recorded profits of £1.3m. Brokers are forecasting a profit rise to £4m this year.

The company was formed in 1991 by the Boyle brothers and Mr Chestnutt. It has been growing at an average rate of more than 40 per cent a year.

Norwich Union calls for disclosure change

NORWICH UNION, one of the UK's biggest life insurers, yesterday called for a wholesale shake-up of the way charges on life and pensions policies are disclosed, saying the system was failing to serve its purpose.

The call came as the insurer warned of a slowdown in the savings market for the year ahead, despite an 11 per cent jump in sales in the first half of 1998.

Norwich Union said hard disclosure – regulations that force investment firms to set out charges and the likely value of their policies – had failed to serve its purpose.

Hard disclosure was introduced by the Conservative government in early 1995 in response to a public clamour over the way policies such as personal pensions and home income plans were sold.

By forcing disclosure of charges, regulators hoped to



Philip Scott: "The system hasn't worked"

flush out insurers charging too much. They also hoped to stimulate competition by allowing prices to be compared.

But evidence has grown in recent months that charges have failed to fall since the regime was introduced. A recent survey by the Personal Investment Authority, the personal finance watchdog, showed charges had frequently risen in spite of disclosure.

Commissions to sales people – the biggest chunk of charges on policies – have risen by an average of 50 per cent in the last five years.

Philip Scott, managing director, said: "The system needs changing because it hasn't worked. Customers don't get the kind of information they need and it doesn't help them make comparisons with other kinds of saving."

Norwich Union is urging regulators to allow customers to compare charges at insurers with those at banks – where deposit accounts contain high charges in the form of lower interest rates.

NU yesterday revealed an 18 per cent jump in sales of UK savings policies in first half of 1998, to £129m.

GEC's Marconi wins BT contract

GENERAL ELECTRIC Company Plc said its Marconi Communications unit won a £400m (£659m) contract to supply equipment and services to British Telecommunications Plc for a high-capacity UK data network, Bloomberg reports.

The contract is part of BT's £2bn project to upgrade its UK network to accommodate spiralling Internet, data and other multimedia traffic.

Equipment manufacturers are expected to gain from a surge in demand for data and Internet services around the world.

BT said investment that supports data services has grown to about 50 per cent of its annual outlay, from below 5 per cent in 1994.

"This is an excellent start for the new company which is positioned to exploit the trend among operators to increase investment in transmission systems," said Mike Parton, managing director of Marconi Communications, in a statement.

The order brings to £1.1bn the amount BT has agreed to invest so far this year to attract more data to its network and away from its rivals, including Cable & Wireless Communications Plc and Easnet.

Internet revenue in Western Europe will grow to \$30bn in 2001, from \$1bn in 1997, according to International Data Corp., of Framingham, Massachusetts.

BT said that by 2003, the volume of Internet and other multimedia traffic will match the number of ordinary voice calls, which contribute some 90 per cent of its revenue now.

It said the latest investment is being made to handle new services such as electronic trading, mobile and broadband data integration and digital broadcasting.

S&N marked as bid target

SMITH & NEPHEW shares rose 1p to 172p against the market trend yesterday as the City marked the company up as a takeover target, writes Clifford German.

This followed the sale by Swiss group Roche Holding of its 84 per cent stake in DePuy, a company making artificial joints, to Johnson & Johnson for £2.9bn (£1.8bn). Johnson & Johnson will spend a further £600m to buy out the minority holding in DePuy.

Roche, which bought DePuy last year as part of the takeover of Corange, had put the business up for sale and Smith & Nephew was thought to be a possible buyer.

With DePuy, Johnson & Johnson will have almost 25 per cent of the world market in orthopaedic devices and access to the European market. More consolidation in the artificial joint business and increased pressure on Smith & Nephew's existing orthopaedic division,

whose market share is around 6 per cent, are likely to result.

Pfizer has put its Howmedica orthopaedic business, which has 13 per cent of the world market, up for sale. Sulzer Medical of Switzerland, which has 12 per cent of the world market, is favoured to buy it, analysts say. Smith & Nephew may try to buy another orthopaedic business, Zimmer, which has 18 per cent of the world market, from Bristol-Myers Squibb.

COMPANY RESULTS					
Share	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day
Adia Vita (F)	31.77m (22.08m)	11.74m (5.41m)	69.0p (+27.0p)	8.0p (8.0p)	05.10.98
Amey Index (F)	13.95m (12.51m)	3.08m (2.42m)	12.1p (8.0p)	10.3p (10.0p)	01.10.98
Avon Products (F)	18.40m (18.70m)	-0.71m (0.047m)	-6.78p (0.47p)	-	-
Best Packaging (F)	60.89m (50.40m)	2.7m (3.5m)	5.5p (7.8p)	2.75p (4.125p)	01.10.98
Brewery (F)	51.93m (45.6m)	1.45m (0.16m)	5.4p (2.1p)	1.3p (1.2p)	the
Glaxo (F)	194.4m (2.8m)	0.638m (0.462m)	5.39p (3.53p)	1.0p (2.0p)	the
Grain Processing (F)	12.57m (17.84m)	0.102m (0.022m)	0.34p (0.02p)	nil (-)	-
Life Group (F)	238.23m (209.42m)	11.1m (8.21m)	10.3p (8.1p)	1.4p (2.5p)	01.10.98
Midwest Properties (F)	24.89m (21.57m)	6.61m (6.53m)	3.8p (3.7p)	1.0p (0.9p)	11.08.98
Millar Gordon Estates (F)	25.11m (31.45m)	10.082m (5.982m)	4.3p (3.8p)	3.15p (3.0p)	01.10.98
Imperial (F)	1.37m (1.12m)	158.5m (120.5m)	49.5p (38.7p)	12.0p (9.0p)	the

in the WEDNESDAY REVIEW Real Britannia



What does being British mean when you're a Scot?
by Harry Ritchie

Peter York on macaroni cheese, the ultimate Empire comfort food

Swiss investor picks up HSBC stake

AS THE banking profits season gets under way tomorrow, HSBC, the old Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation, finds itself pondering the intentions of Martin Ebner, the maverick Swiss investor.

He is happy to let the world know he has picked up 0.4 per cent (for around £168m) of the banking giant and may increase his shareholding. Mr Ebner is now in the Far East and is expected to hold talks with HSBC executives.

His BZ Group, controlling investments worth \$35bn, is the largest single investor in Switzerland's Credit Suisse and actively encouraged the giant banking merger between UBS and Swiss Bank Corporation. He also has 12 per cent of Roche, the giant Swiss drug group.

The 52-year-old investor has achieved a reputation for stirring things at the companies which attract his attention - and cash. Even so, he will find HSBC, which ranks as Britain's biggest banking group, a difficult and powerful subject for his traditional combative approach.

The banking season starts tomorrow when Northern Rock, one of the new-style mortgage banks, produces its interim results.

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

Around £105m against £83m is expected with charges against the previous year largely responsible for the upsurge.

HSBC is due to report on Monday week. SG Securities is looking for a 4.3 per cent fall to £2.5bn. The shares, riding at 2.347p before the Asian crisis erupted, rose 32p to 1.675p in a generally weak banking sector, ruffled by Morgan Stanley caution.

The rest of the stock market had another quiet session with the second day of 9am opening failing to inject any early life into order-driven trading.

Volume and interest were low ahead of US banking chief Alan Greenspan's semi-annual report to Congress. At least he managed to ease any worries of an early interest rate increase, helping to pull shares off their worst levels.

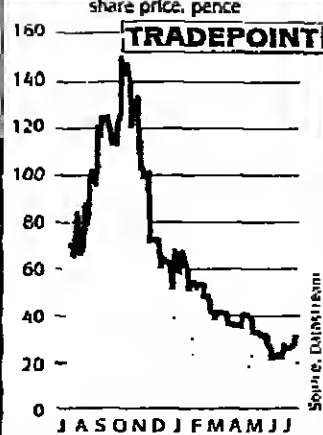
Footsie's six-day winning streak came to an end with a 46.3 points fall to 6,132.7. Earlier it was off 63.6. Supporting indices also weakened.

British Aerospace was the best performing blue chip, climbing 20.5p to 492p on reports that Airbus Industrie, where BAe has a 20 per cent stake, was near to clinching a \$3bn US order from United Parcel Services. BG's remarkable progress continued with a 7.5p rise to 38p, and Reuters, the information group, improved 12p to 631p ahead of today's interim figures. Around £220m against £333m is expected. The shares were more than 750p six weeks ago.

Imperial Chemical Industries, reporting tomorrow, was also weak, off 20p to 92p. An interim figure of around £200m against £160m is likely.

SmithKline Beecham fell 32.5p to 745p on its results, and Stagecoach was another to run into sell-

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



ing after figures, reversing 54p to 1.330p.

RMC, the building materials group meeting analysts, fell 11p to 96p. Panmure Gordon downgraded its estimates to £312m from £335m.

BT, up 2.5p to 829.5p, has signed a three-year supply deal for transmission equipment with General Electric, 5p harder at 54p.

Diageo, the spirits giant, weakened 19.5p to 755p on worries about

the future of some of its smaller distribution deals following signs that the French group Pernod Ricard is about to find another distributor for its Wild Turkey bourbon whiskey.

Shield Diagnostic, developing a test for detecting heart problems, jumped 42.5p to 580p as Dr Erling Refsum of Nomura put a potential 2.220p price tag on the shares.

Shire Pharmaceuticals, after its Alzheimer's run, shaded 2p to 538.5p.

Smith & Nephew, which has fallen sharply this year, perked up 10p to 170p as takeover speculation reappeared. Johnson & Johnson, the US group, is buying DuPont, an artificial joints maker, from Roche for \$3.5bn. S&N has often been linked with J&J in the past.

Pilkington, the glass maker, cracked again, off 5.5p to 107.5p, lowest since February as worries returned about current trading. A downturn message is expected at the coming yearly meeting. Last year Pilks lost £100m against a £77m profit.

There was a flurry of late activity in Thistle Hotels, which is considering bid approaches. The price rose 3.5p to 226p. Whitbread is

emerging as a possible contender to bid. The shares dipped 4p to 961p.

The hard-pressed pubs chain Regent Inns was little changed at 171.5p. Merrill Lynch, although cautious in the short term, has put out a long-term buy signal. It says the company, following its profit warning, is "a shadow of its former self" but changes now being introduced could make the shares "an attractive recovery play on a two-year view".

JJB Sports continued to enjoy the support of stories of a corporate strike. Umbro, the sports goods maker, is named as one possible target. The shares rose a further 27p to 479.5p; they were 822.5p earlier this year.

TradePoint, the stock market in miniature, continued to enjoy the Stock Exchange's discomfort following the move to later opening. The shares rose 7p to 33.5p, reflecting its decision to cut prices on early trades. Last year TradePoint was 148.5p.

SEAQ VOLUME: 697.6m

SEAQ TRADES: 57,363

GILTS INDEX: 105.79 +1.24

THE SO-CALLED Falkland flyers were airborne again. Stories that Shell has drilled deep enough to get an idea about its well off the Falkland Islands sent Desire Petroleum and its followers higher. There are hopes that a statement will emerge this week. Desire rose 21.5p to 210.5p. Greenwitch Resources and Westmont, with stakes in Desire, gained 2.25p to 25p and 9p to 122.5p respectively. Soda, a Swedish group with Falkland interests which arrived on the market on Friday, was overlooked, sticking at 65.5p. The shares were introduced at around 55p.

PETRA DIAMONDS firmed 2p to 140.5p. There are suggestions it is near to making an announcement on exploration activities in Angola.

PROTEUS INTERNATIONAL added 4p to 40.5p. Developments are expected to be revealed about its BSE tests at tomorrow's shareholders meeting.

SmithKline fails to convince the sceptics

YOU HAVE to feel sorry for Jan Leschly. The SmithKline Beecham boss may have been a fearsome tennis player, but in the battle with Sir Richard Sykes, chief executive of Glaxo Wellcome, he's come off second best. Ever since the two drug giants abandoned plans for a mega-merger, investors have been sceptical about SmithKline's future as an independent company. Glaxo has got more or less scot-free.

Confused? Mr Leschly is. SmithKline, after all, is less dependent on a single blockbuster drug - its Augmentin flu treatment accounts for a fifth of drug sales - than Glaxo, which leans heavily on its Zantac ulcer treatment. And SmithKline has a strong product pipeline, with four promising drugs in the final stages of development.

But shareholders remain sceptical. So when SmithKline yesterday reported slightly disappointing second-quarter results, which showed pre-tax profits rising by just 4 per cent to £362m, its shares tumbled 4 per cent, falling 32.5p to 745.5p. That despite SmithKline's insistence that full-year earnings, before currency factors, would show double digit growth.

Investors have two worries. The first is that SmithKline's established drugs will not produce much growth. The company yesterday made much of the success of Paxil, its anti-depression drug, and Famvir, used to treat herpes. But the absence of a bout of flu held back sales of Augmentin, so first-half revenues in the pharmaceutical division, allowing for currencies, rose just 8 per cent.

The second worry is escalating R&D costs. Mr Leschly says spending will plateau when it reaches 16 per cent of sales. Given that the first-half ratio was 11 per cent, analysts fear that profit growth will be constrained.

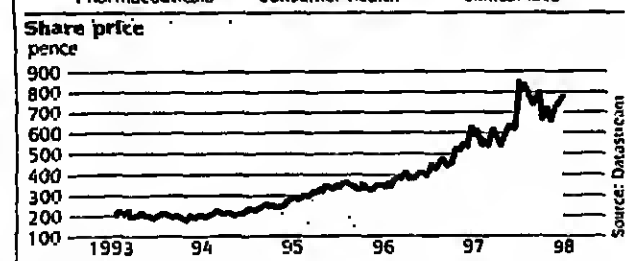
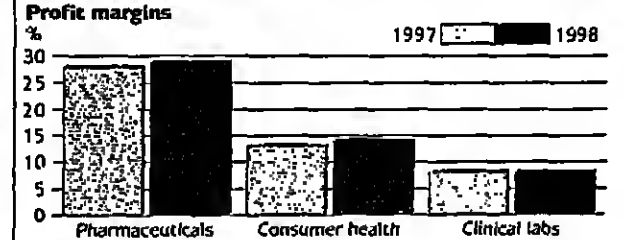
What can SmithKline do? Another merger is off the agenda for now. Adopting an ambitious long-term growth target might help, but the problem is that its success depends on factors such as clinical trials and regulatory approval that

INVESTMENT

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

SMITHKLINE BEECHAM: AT A GLANCE

	1995	1996	1997	1998
Turnover (£bn)	7.01	7.93	7.79	3.73
Pre-tax profits (£bn)	1.62	1.55	1.65	0.80
Earnings per share (p)	17.80	18.90	19.70	9.00
Dividends per share (p)	7.13	8.93	9.95	4.41



are almost impossible to predict. With SmithKline shares trading on a multiple of around 35 times expected 1998 earnings, the upside looks limited.

Villa deserves a higher place

ASTON VILLA's share price has fallen faster than an Argentinean in his opponent's penalty area over the past year as football stocks have slid out of favour. Priced at 1100p on coming to the market a year ago, they have lost more than half their value since. This has angered Doug Ellis, Villa's veteran chairman, who feels his club is now grossly undervalued.

His comments about improving shareholder value initially boosted the shares yesterday but those gains soon disappeared as the market saw little substance in the remarks. They ended down 5p at 515p.

To be fair on Mr Ellis, this looks a bit harsh. Villa yesterday reported a doubling of full-year profits to £10.8m, excluding a £942,000 net gain on transfer activity. Villa is one of the more solid Premiership clubs which, after an appalling start to the season, finished seventh in the league and qualified again for the UEFA cup, which added more than £1.8m to revenues last year.

Off the field it is extending the capacity of its stadium from 30,000 to more than 50,000 by the 1999-2000 season and is planning a hotel and more executive boxes. Broadcasting revenues jumped from £5.4m to £9.3m last year and Villa is keen to take part in a possible pay-per-view trial early next year.

Season ticket sales could be a worry. The club kicked off last season with 24,000 season ticket holders. But after an 18 per cent hike in prices it has so far sold only 17,000.

On Greig Middleton's fore-

casts of £7.8m, the shares trade on a paltry rating of 11. They will not travel far until sentiment shifts more in favour of the sector but for a club with a valuable franchise the shares are cheap.

Incentives keep MITIE ahead

COMPANIES ARE supposed to be sparing with their equity but MITIE chucks it around with almost gay abandon. The services group is a firm believer in employee incentives and therefore offers its managers shares when new businesses are started, often buying them out once the subsidiary is up and running.

The staff like a larger number of lightweight shares, which is why the company has decided to split them in half again, although, at around 300p, they are not exactly in the heavyweight division.

The system certainly works, as MITIE has just turned in its ninth successive year of 30 per cent-plus profit growth. In the year to March turnover rose by a modest 13 per cent to £236m, of which acquisitions and start-ups accounted for £25m. But profits were up 35 per cent to £11.1m, while earnings per share rose 27 per cent to 10.3p.

The company's strength is in the diversity of services it offers. It covers everything from engineering, air-conditioning, painting and plant hire to office cleaning and maintenance.

MITIE grew successfully through the last recession, so it seems little threat from a slowdown. The introduction of a minimum wage will only affect a small part of the cleaning services business. Meanwhile HAT Property Services, which MITIE bought from the receiver recently, will add £15m of sales in the current year. The company has also won several government contracts.

On a multiple of around 20 times expected March 2000 earnings, the shares, which have had a fantastic run but dipped 11p to 310p yesterday, are high enough.

IN BRIEF

Bahamas opening for casino group

LONDON Clubs International, the UK casino operator, is to lease a casino in a new resort being developed on Grand Bahama island. The resort is being developed by Hutchison Lucaya, a subsidiary of the Hong Kong-based Hutchison Whampoa and will have three hotels, two golf courses, a casino and 30 acres of grounds.

London Clubs is expected to invest about \$10m (£8m) in gaming equipment and fitting out the casino which will have about 30 gaming tables and up to 400 slot machines.

The shares rose 4p to 197.5p, but are still 30 per cent below what they were in March before the Chancellor announced a hike in gaming duty. Profits have also been hit by the strong pound and the Asian economic crisis.

Boots buys

BOOTS BOUGHT the brand rights to two consumer healthcare brands from Klosterfrau in Germany for £15.7m on behalf of its Boots Healthcare International (BHI) business.

The brands are Dobendan, Dolo-Dobendan and Dobendan X, a leading over-the-counter range of throat-care lozenges, tablets and liquid, and Migranin, an over-the-counter oral analgesic.

The deal represents an important step towards the fulfilment of BHI's ambition to be an OTC player in Germany. Boots said, The German OTC market - the largest in Europe - was estimated to be worth £3bn in 1997.

BBA offloads Ajax

BBA HAS completed its exit from specialist electrical engineering after selling Ajax Magnethermic for £82m. Ajax is being taken over by a management buyout team which has the backing of Citicorp Venture Capital.

The buyout group is acquiring 85 per cent of Ajax, while engineer BBA holds on to a 15 per cent equity stake.

Ajax's main business is the design, manufacture and marketing of heating and melting equipment.

Ronaldo's own goal for Leschly

WHY DID Brazil lose the World Cup final? Forget conspiracy theories of French waiters serving poisoned food or corporate sponsors rewriting the team sheet - I can exclusively reveal that the heirs of Pele got a French stuffing because of SmithKline Beecham.

And I can rely on the words of Jan Leschly, SKB's chief executive and former tennis pro. Mr Leschly was regaling me yesterday with the story of Paxil, a drug developed by SKB which combats depression and panic attacks.

Mr Leschly is convinced that Ronaldo, Brazil's star striker, was treated with the drug after suffering a panic attack hours before the final. Mr Leschly said yesterday: "Ronaldo panicked. He went to the hospital. I'm sure he was given Paxil."

So if the drug worked, why was Ronaldo's performance so lacklustre? Mr Leschly's response was that Paxil "didn't start to work in time". Come to think of it, I can't understand why Mr Leschly referred to the drug in the first place. "Paxil - it'll make you play like a plankton." Hardly a winning slogan.

DRESDNER Kleinwort Benson (DKB) has bagged its third hit from UBS in a month. Michael Phair, one of the UK's leading pharmaceutical advisers, is leaving UBS to become global head of Telecoms and Media in DKB's global corporate finance division.

Mr Phair follows colleagues TJ Lim and Conor Killeen to DKB. Mr Lim was head of fixed income at UBS and regarded by many as a rising star, while Mr Killeen was head of UBS's global equity capital markets business.

Mr Phair says their moves were unconnected with his but certainly didn't put him off. "Following the UBS merger with SBC only Warburgers were considered for the top jobs. So if I wasn't going to be global, I had to search for an alternative," he says.

Mr Phair is bullish about DKB's prospects. "We have the potential to be the European 'bulge bracket' investment bank. Warburg will have a big problem living up to its reputation in coming years. Deutsche Morgan Grenfell isn't shooting itself in the foot, but amputating it. This opens up the possibility of DKB walking through the middle."

The dozen-strong telecoms team at DKB will have to expand to around 20 or 30 to cope with its planned growth into the

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK



ONE OF the smallest companies in the world has taken on one of the biggest - and won. David Bowen, a former writer with the Independent on Sunday, has successfully defended his ownership of the title Net Profit, his Internet newsletter, against a similarly named product launched by Mitsubishi, the giant Japanese conglomerate.

Net Profit is now two years old and is produced in East Dulwich by a staff of four. Last autumn Mitsubishi Electricity's PC division launched a £750,000 advertising campaign in the UK. This included giving away copies of an Internet guide entitled: "Net Profit: How to put the Internet to work for your Business". Mr Bowen launched a legal claim for "passing off", and last week the two parties reached an out-of-court settlement. Good to see David triumphing over Goliath once more...

potential to be the European 'bulge bracket' investment bank. Warburg will have a big problem living up to its reputation in coming years. Deutsche Morgan Grenfell isn't shooting itself in the foot, but amputating it. This opens up the possibility of DKB walking through the middle."

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FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Country	Sterling	1 month	3 month	Dollar	1 month	3 month	0-Mark	Spot
UK	1.0000			0.6085	0.6095	0.6116	0.3400	
Australia	2.6216	2.6199	2.6117	1.5966	1.5969	1.5973	0.8920	
Austria	20.682	20.655	20.579	12.582	12.590	12.586	1.0354	
Belgium	60.846	60.445	60.023	36.905	36.945	36.915	70.620	
Canada	2.4511	2.4464	2.4348	1.4915	1.4905	1.4891	0.8334	
Denmark	11.207	11.174	11.110	6.8201	6.8111	6.7946	3.0102	
ECU	1.4895	1.4881	1.4783	1.1033	1.1047	1.1075	0.2627	
Finland	8.9407	8.9097	8.8497	5.4407	5.4307	5.4123	3.0398	
France	9.860	9.826	9.759	6.0004	5.9891	5.9683	3.2525	
Germany	6.5607	6.5297	6.4697	4.1409	4.1319	4.1125	2.0913	
Greece	247.35	246.52	245.38	296.52	296.62	301.87	165.90	
Hong Kong	12.732	12.734	12.758	7.7480	7.7480	7.7480	4.2700	
Italy	1.1705	1.1685	1.1663	1.4028	1.4019	1.4019	0.7844	
Japan	382.8	382.9	382.9	289.52	289.52	289.52	1.0000	
Malaysia	230.74	229.34	226.61	140.42	139.79	138.59	9.9614	
Mexico	6.8033	6.8599	7.0105	4.1409	4.1319	4.1125	2.0913	
Netherlands	3.3155	3.3036	3.2890	2.0176	2.0136	2.0053	1.0000	
New Zealand	3.1301	3.1239	3.1108	1.9041	1.9041	1.9041	0.3587	
Norway	12.425	12.411	12.364	7.5669	7.5649	7.5616	4.2278	
Portugal	300.82	299.98	298.74	183.06	182.85	182.40	102.28	
Saudi Arabia	6.1632	6.1560	6.1415	3.7503	3.7503	3.7503	2.0913	
Singapore	382.8	382.9	382.9	289.52	289.52	289.52	1.0000	
South Africa	10.3528	10.4394	10.7058	6.3000	6.3960	6.5475	3.1199	
Spain	249.61	248.93	247.54	151.90	151.72	151.72	84.867	
Sweden	13.090	13.077	13.077	7.6650	7.6650	7.6650	4.4507	
Switzerland	2.4705	2.4668	2.4445	1.5082	1.5036	1.4950	0.8427	
US	1.6433			1.0000				

OTHER SPOT RATES

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	1.6433	1.0000	Oman	0.6325	0.3850
Brazil	1.9071	1.1605	Pakistan	76.315	46.440
China	13.606	8.2798	Philippines	68.443	41.550
Czech Rep	51.772	31.140	Poland	5.6152	3.4170
Egypt	5.5918	3.4028	Qatar	5.9812	3.6398
Ghana	382.8	233.0	Russia	1015.5	618.00
Hungary	354.94	215.99	South Korea	121.15	129.00
India	69.676	42.400	Taiwan	56.201	34.200
Indonesia	2427.9	1477.0	Thailand	67.211	40.800
Kuwait	0.5037	0.3062	Turkey	44.201	26.890
Nigeria	140.50	85.500	UAE	6.0350	3.6725

INTEREST RATES

UK	Base	7.50%	Germany	Discount	2.50%	US	Prime	8.50%	Japan	Discount	0.50%
France	Intervention	3.30%	Italy	Prime	4.50%	Belgium	Discount	5.00%	Belgium	Discount	2.75%
Canada	Discount	5.00%	Canada	Discount	5.00%	Canada	Discount	5.00%	Canada	Discount	3.30%
Denmark	Discount	5.00%	Denmark	Discount	5.00%	Denmark	Discount	5.00%	Denmark	Discount	1.00%
Spain	Discount	3.30%	Spain	Discount	3.75%	Spain	Discount	4.10%	Spain	Discount	4.00%

BOND YIELDS

	Dollar			Bid	Offer	Bid	Offer
ng		Treasury Bills					
6	0.8550	LIBOR					
5	46.440	Domestic Depos	7.38	7.50	7.31	7.44	
3	41.550	Eurosterling Dep	7.25	7.38	7.41	7.47	
2	3.4170	Eligible Bank Bills					
6	3.6398	Sterling CDs					
1	118.00	Eurodollar CDs					
6	129.100	ECU Deposits					
5	34.200						
1	40.900						
1	268990						
0	3.6725						
		www.bloomberg.com/us					

SPORT

Cricket: Advances in pitch technology are held responsible for the decline of a famous English bowling tradition

Finger spinners
under threat
of extinction

BY DEREK PRINGLE

WHILE THE overall health of cricket is a much discussed subject, one of its constituent parts is declining virtually unnoticed. Finger spinners, once a hardy species that came into their own during the mid to late summer months, are in danger of going the way of the dinosaur and the dodo, their effectiveness as match winners diminishing by the season.

The issue that brought the problem sharply into focus was England's inability to take more than a handful of wickets in the last Test against South Africa. In fact, in three Tests this summer Robert Croft has yet to take a wicket with his off-spin, while Ashley Giles has now been dropped. At Old Trafford, neither threatened to turn a ball, let alone the match.

But if England's finger spinners have rarely dominated in the last decade - only Phil Tufnell has won Test matches - extinction threatens on a global scale. Of all the Test bowlers who have taken 100 Test wickets since 1993, and there have been 11, only one is a finger spinner: Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan.

Meanwhile, the overriding reason for the decline, at least in England, appears to be the loss of a suitable habitat. Finger spinners, as opposed to wrist spinners - who by the nature of their action get a lot more rotation on the ball - require some loosening of the pitch's surface for the ball to purchase.

This is simply not happening, and has not been for the past few years, which is why finger spinners often resort to bowling into the foot-holes. It is mostly a negative play unless the batsman happens to be left-handed, in which case the off-spinner is further disadvantaged by dint of the rough being too wide of off stump.

The main culprits, it seems, are Surrey and Oxford loam soils. Over the past 10 years most counties have undertaken a pitch re-laying

programme under the guidance of Harry Brind, the England and Wales Cricket Board's inspector of pitches. During the late Eighties, when English cricket first began to search its soul, failures at Test level were blamed on county cricket and the pitches it was played on.

Most cricket squares, it was pronounced, were old and dead. Re-laying two or three pitches per year with either of the loams, it was argued, would pep them up; the extra pace and bounce encouraging both strokeplaying batsmen, as well as fast bowlers.

The trouble is that the two loams have a higher clay content: around 31 per cent as opposed to the 24 to 26 per cent previously used. According to Stuart Kerrison, the Essex groundsman, the surface now "binds much better than it used to".

Science, too, has played its part, and better husbandry in the autumn, as well as better equipment, means that today's pitches are often far more solidly constructed than their predecessors. Ideally spinners need pitches to crumble, which means more, not less, friable soil.

Keith Fletcher, a man who has been involved in first-class cricket since 1962, reckons that apart from The Oval last year, where England beat Australia on a pitch that turned extravagantly from day one, there has not been a proper "bunsen" (bunsen burner/turner) for half a dozen years.

"All the re-laid pitches tend to do, as the game goes on," says Fletcher, "is crack and become more uneven, which further encourages pace bowlers."

The evidence, albeit over a longer time scale, appears to back him up. Last season, just three spinners were placed in the top 30 of the bowling averages. Indeed, only one of them, Phil Tufnell, was English qualified, while the others, Shane Warne (a wrist spinner in any case) and Saqlain Mushtaq, are two of the

modern greats.

Fifteen years earlier, in 1982, before pitches were beginning to be re-laid, there were seven in the top 30. All finger spinners, and each qualified to play for England.

The lack of spinners' surfaces has not helped batsmen either. "When we go abroad and the pitch gets off the straight we tend to get bowled out," said Fletcher. "You can't really blame the batsmen, they just don't see 'turners' any more."

Peter Such, the Essex off-spinner also believes that although pitches are the main culprit, the trend for big bats has further contributed to the shrinking role of the finger spinner.

"Bat technology has moved forward, while that of the ball has stood still," reckons Such, who has played eight Tests for England. "You get these huge railway sleepers now, that pick up like feathers. Even if you induce an error, the batsman nearly always gets away with it. I've seen mis-hits go for six, while leading edges nearly always clear the infield."

Overall technique, especially the use of the front leg to pad away the ball has also contributed to the worldwide demise of the finger spinner. Once a niche becomes vacated, it is often filled by opportunists, which is why wrist spinners have prospered.

Tim May, a fine off-spinner who played for Australia, found that with Warne bowling around 30 overs in a day, he was a "bit of a spare part". Seeing his international future stymied, May promptly retired, and now runs the Players' Association.

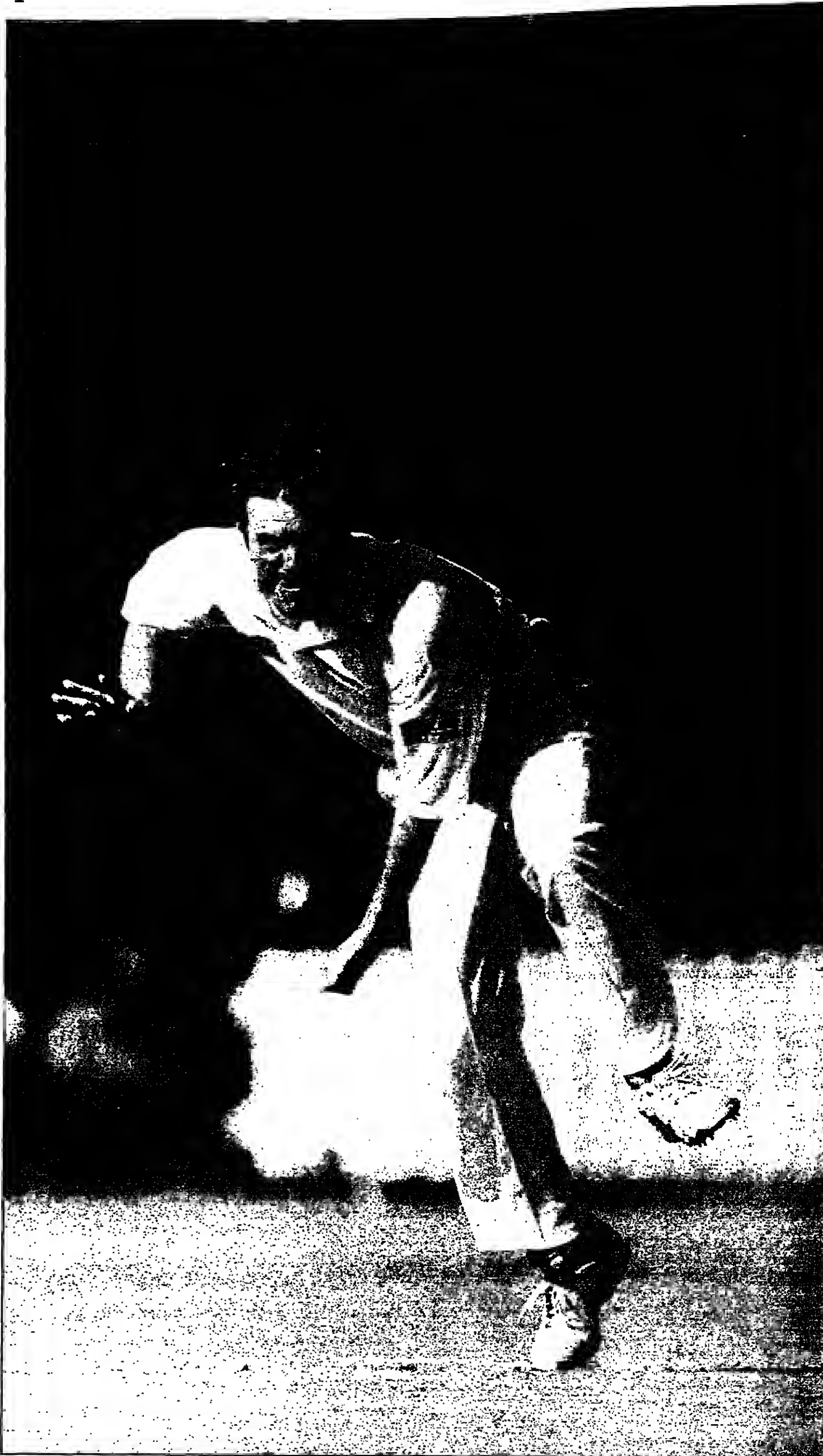
Potential solutions to the problem are not simple and, according to groundsman, it is not easy to get a four or five-day pitch to turn without risking censure.

"With a 25-point penalty about, it's easier for groundsman to play safe," said one county coach. "If 20 or more wickets fall in a day to seam on a green pitch, hardly anyone says a word. If the same amount fell to spin, there'd be hell to pay."

One idea would be to extend the five-foot follow-through mark currently allowed to bowlers. Allowing them to run onto the pitch as far down as, say, 10 feet, would create better and straighter rough for the spinners to bowl into.

It would add a tactical dimension too. For instance, if you had an off-spinner in your side, the faster bowlers might deliberately go round the wicket to create some rough for him later in the game. Certainly that is the main reason why Saqlain is able to thrive as an off-spinner for Pakistan, and he would be far less effective if he did not have Wasim Akram's footsteps outside the right-hander's off-stump as a target.

At present, cricket needs all the variety it can get. Unless we are happy simply slapping a preservation order on finger spinners something drastic must be done. If it is not, the last known finger spinner is likely to end up stuffed as a permanent exhibit in the Lord's museum.



Phil Tufnell has been England's only finger spinner of repute in recent years, but the decline has also been felt overseas

Allsport

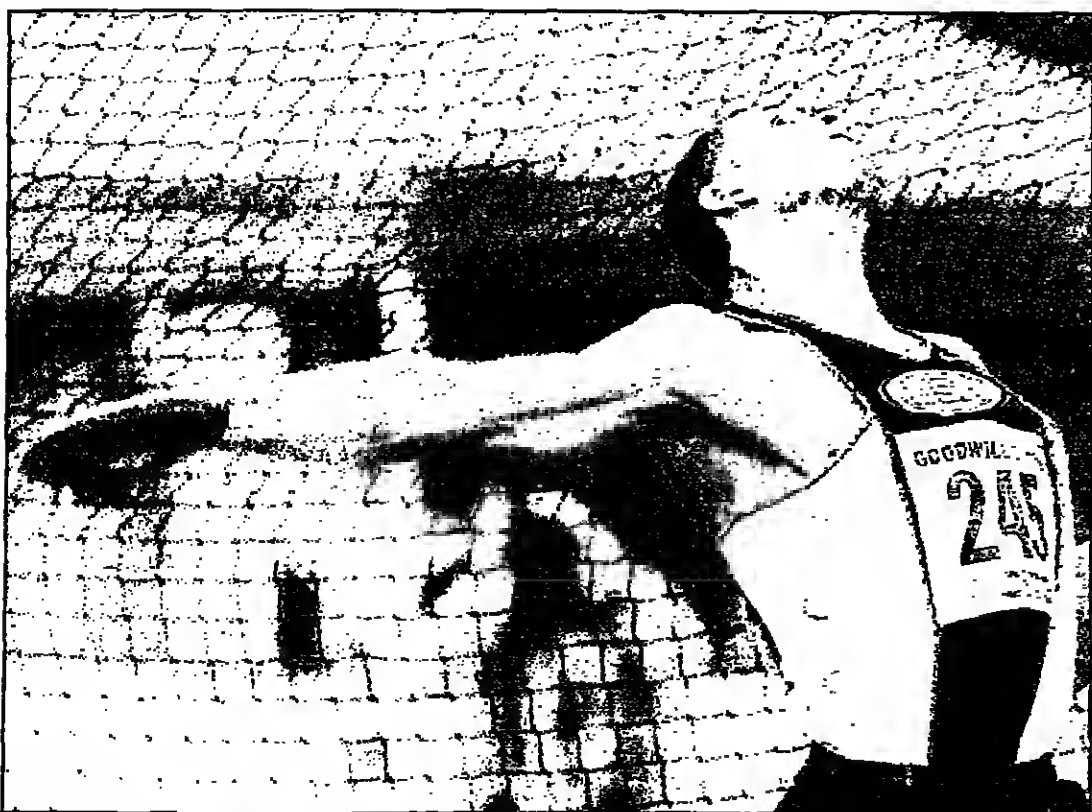
FOR WHOM THE BAIL TOLLS
TESTS FROM JUNE 1993 TO DATE

Tests played	Tests won	Wkts taken	Wkts taken by seam	Wkts taken by spin	SPINNERS' WKTS	Leg break	Off break	Slow left arm
England	59	13	816	653	163	11	80	72
Australia	57	30	970	589	381	292	57	32
South Africa	46	19	717	614	103	-	36	67
West Indies	44	16	653	573	80	22	46	12
New Zealand	43	8	569	428	141	-	57	84
India	36	11	508	238	270	152	44	74
Pakistan	42	21	694	471	223	139	66	18
Sri Lanka	43	9	551	216	335	1	261	73
Zimbabwe	26	1	338	239	99	79	10	10

100 TEST WICKETS SINCE JUNE 1993

	M	Runs	Wkts	Avg	Best 5w	10w	S/rate	
Shane Warne	56	6801	282	24.1	8-71	13	4	62.23
Allan Donald	40	4415	197	22.41	8-71	11	1	45.93
Courtney Walsh	43	4550	173	26.30	7-37	10	1	60.00
Muttiah Muralitharan	37	4690	171	27.42	7-34	14	1	64.74
Glenn McGrath	37	3900	166	23.49	8-38	9	-	53.30
Wasim Akram	31	3136	155	20.23	7-119	9	2	47.13
Curtly Ambrose	38	3063	147	20.83	6-24	11	1	51.94
Wasim Younis	30	3375	146	23.11	7-91	9	3	42.53
Anil Kumble	36	4295	144	29.82	7-59	8	1	71.25
Mushtaq Ahmed	28	3557	137	25.96	7-56	10	3	55.45
Angus Fraser	30	3024	105	28.80	8-53	6	1	62.77

Jackson comes down to earth in New York



World record holder Dan O'Brien gets to grips with the discus in the decathlon Dan Emmert/AFP

ATHLETICS

COLIN JACKSON appeared in the Goodwill Games in New York on Monday night on the condition that he be flown to the event on Concorde. Once there, he managed a less than superlative performance and had to be content with fourth place in the 110 metres hurdles.

At 31, Wales' world record holder has been back to his best this season, but he was no match for the Americans who filled the first three places with Mark Crear winning in a time of 13.06sec. Jackson could only manage 13.17 - well outside his fastest time so far this year of 13.07.

The American sprinter, Marion Jones, ran the fastest women's 200 metres in the world this year, lowering her own mark by breezing to victory in 21.80. The Ukrainian runner-up Zhanna Pintusevich was 66 hundredths of a second behind as Jones lowered her 1998 best of 21.98 and finished only four-hundredths off her personal best.

It was a sprint double for Jones, the 100m world champion, who also won the 100m title on Sunday. Jones caused a brief stir when she said

some of her opponents had been "trash talking". Asked to explain, Jones said a small group of runners, who she declined to identify, had tried to upset her in order to gain a mental advantage. "They say they know my secrets. It's a bit vexing," she said.

Not vexing enough to upset the tall American, though, who is enjoying a wonderful season on the track and now goes back to Europe and the Golden League circuit.

"It kind of wraps up a kind of a fun weekend here," she said. "I am looking forward to going back to Europe and running fast and jumping far."

Dan O'Brien confirmed his status as the finest all-round track and field athlete of the 1990s before setting his sights on the 2000 Sydney Olympics. The 32-year-old American won the Goodwill Games decathlon title in his first competitive outing since taking the 1996 Atlanta Olympic gold and in the process seriously threatened his own world record.

O'Brien compiled the highest total after nine events in the history of the event, but the effort required in his least favourite

discipline, the 1,500 metres, proved too much and he eventually settled for a total of 8,755. His world record stands at 8,891.

"I know now that my body can stand the training, and I'll be there in 2000," he said. "I would like to go out in 2000 and score 9,000. I didn't know what my fitness level was coming into competition. With a better 400 and 1,500, I will get the world record. My performance here certainly helps me focus on going to Sydney. I've had a tough year because I've lost two of my major sponsors, too. My hamstring was tight all year. There were days when I would go out there and it would hurt."

O'Brien said the key to the decathlon was taking one event at a time and being in shape. "The emotions and the brain were ready (for a world record)," he said. "But I didn't have the physical strength. I'm glad to be back."

Now he only needs to please his coach, Rick Sloan. Asked where Sloan was sitting during his sluggish 1,500 metres, O'Brien replied: "He'll be the guy in the corner sobbing about the fifth world record I've missed."

The best race of the night came in the women's mile when Russia's double Olympic champion, Svetlana Masterkova, held off a challenge from 34-year-old American Regina Jacobs to win in 4min 20.39sec. "She went out fast," Masterkova said. "It was my experience that helped me to win the race." Ireland's Sonia O'Sullivan finished fifth.

The Belarussian Ivan Ivanov added the Goodwill all-round gymnastics title to his 1997 world title. Ivanov, denied a chance of gold in Atlanta after rupturing an Achilles tendon, recorded an aggregate 57,600 to defeat the Russian Alexei Bondarenko.

In the basketball competition, Brazil defeated Puerto Rico, conquerors of the United States on Sunday, by 96-92 in overtime. The United States, led by Wally Szczerbiak's 23 points, rallied late in the match to beat China 91-76.

Bill May, the first male swimmer to compete in a major international synchronised swimming competition, took the silver medal with Kristina Lum in the duet section and was also part of the American team who finished second to Russia.

Atherton fit to face South Africans

MICHAEL ATHERTON was yesterday cleared to play in the crucial fourth Test against South Africa at Trent Bridge tomorrow. The former England captain was hit on the hand playing for Lancashire in Monday night's AXA League triumph over Worcestershire at Old Trafford, casting a doubt over his participation at Nottingham.

But as Atherton and the rest of England's 13-man squad assembled for practice yesterday, the physiotherapist Wayne Morton insisted: "He's fine. It's not a problem."

David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, yesterday hailed the role Lancashire played in guiding the talented young batsman Andrew Flintoff from a promising youngster, through his growing pains, to the verge of his first Test appearance.

Flintoff's selection owes much to his powerful and at times brutal batting style, but his recovery from a long-standing back complaint has enabled his inclusion as a batting all-rounder down the order, capable of delivering several overs of deceptively quick seam bowling.

Graveney said: "I think Lancashire have done a fantastic job - it would have been very easy to allow him to bowl lots and lots of overs this season."

"The spells he has bowled this season have got bigger and bigger, but even though he has taken a couple of wickets they have called a halt and let someone else bowl."

"I have no doubt that Andrew can develop into a Test-class, all-rounder. Before he had these problems with his back, he was a player who had fantastic capabilities both with the bat and the ball, but a young cricketer's growth can often be a problem."

Whether England can fit him into their side remains to be seen, having selected Ben Hollis for the last Test at Old Trafford, only to overlook him this time in favour of a second spinner to complement Robert Croft of Glamorgan.

Unlike Hollis, his teammate on this winter's A tour to Kenya and Sri Lanka, Flintoff has a good chance of playing, with England desperate to improve their disappointing first-innings batting displays.

Flintoff is likely to bat at No 7 if selected, which would mean one of England's strike bowlers - possibly Angus Fraser - dropping out.

But, while Flintoff frets over the possibility of playing his first Test, Graeme Hick is welcoming his return after a two-year absence by insisting he has cured the nerves and anxiety which undermined the previous 46 Tests in his career.

"I don't feel as anxious as I did in the past," Hick said, after being pencilled in to bat at No 6. "Two years out of the side makes you sit back, try and learn a bit and listen to what people are saying."

"My career has had ups and downs in it. There have been some good knocks but also some ordinary ones, and I am hoping the extra confidence I have now will take me on from here."

Graveney will consider the demands of the counties by releasing at least one player from the 13-man squad today after inspecting the Trent Bridge pitch.



Lisa Keightley, of Australia, puts the England bowling to the sword on her way to becoming the first female centurion at the home of cricket yesterday

Peter Jay

Historic century for Keightley

By DAVID LLEWELLYN at Lord's

Australia 256-1
England 141-7
Australia win by 115 runs;
Australia win series 5-0

ANOTHER BARRIER fell to women at Lord's yesterday. Australia's Lisa Keightley became the first woman to score a century at the headquarters of cricket. So one more hurdle down, just a further 7,875-odd to go, that being the number of MCC members who voted against allowing women to join their club.

For the 26-year-old Keightley

it was a moment to savour, but typically she put her team first. "I did not know anything about being the first woman to score a hundred at Lord's until it was announced a short time afterwards," she said. "But I feel great, tops."

Sharon Bayton, the chairman of the Women's Cricket Association, said: "I'm very pleased for Lisa and it is terrific for women's cricket in general. What I would like to see would be England winning, but globally I want the women's game to be regarded as a spectacle, something that people will want to watch. Therefore, any century, by any nationality, is welcome."

Sadly, only a few hundred people were in the ground at the historic moment when Keightley, full of delicate dabs, cruel cuts and dashing drives, ran three runs off the 130th ball of her innings to take her to three figures. It took her 155 minutes and included six fours.

Born in Mudgee, New South Wales, Keightley began playing cricket when she was 11, taking on her three brothers in the garden of their home. She went on to play for her country at under-18, under-21 and youth levels before graduating to the full Australian team. She has appeared in 22 internationals scoring two hundreds and five

50s. On this tour her average score in the five limited overs internationals is a highly impressive 85.

England were thoroughly outclassed yesterday, with the exception of the England captain, Karrie Smithies, who scored a gutsy, unbeaten 62. They did not have a bowler with the pace or penetration of Cathryn Fitzpatrick, or the accuracy of Charmaine Mason.

Fitzpatrick was outstanding finishing with 5 for 47 from her 10 overs, while Mason had a miserly 1 for 24 from her full allocation.

But the day belonged to the Australian batswomen, with

their captain Belinda Clark compiling a truly superb 89.

The form of Keightley and Clark and the Australian's all-round excellence bodes ill for England, who approach the Test series, which begins at Guildford on 5 August, having suffered a 5-0 whitewash in the one-day internationals.

And they are playing for the Ashes. Not the Ashes, but certainly the hunched residue of an autographed bat. It was placed in a wok on Monday, along with the constitution and badge of the WCA then set alight in a modest ceremony in the Memorial Garden at Lord's before being put into a hollow

wooden trophy shaped like a cricket ball.

The chances of England getting their hands on the trophy are slim, but all could change now that the WCA, already partially digested by the all-consuming England and Wales Cricket Board, will be finally consumed at the end of September.

It could only do the women's game in this country good according to Bayton. "The key to the merger is that it gives us the ability to bring the game to a wider audience and create opportunities for many more girls to play club cricket," she said.

There are 3,600 women cricketers in this country in 82 clubs, but Australia can call on a pool of some 23,000 women and so dominate the world game.

From October the women's game will be looking to appoint a performance director, who will in turn select a coach, full-time or part-time, but paid either way. The present coach, Megan Lear, is, like almost everyone involved in the WCA, an amateur. A proper coaching structure will be set up based on the ECB's county boards. After that the only way for woman's cricket in England should be up.

Tourists consider replacing Klusener

By MYLES HODGSON

PETER POLLOCK returns to the scene of one of his finest triumphs today to discuss whether South Africa's multi-talented squad can afford to continue their tour of England without replacing their key all-rounder, Lance Klusener.

Pollock, a former South African fast bowler and now convenor of their selectors, established his reputation by claiming a 10-wicket haul at the 1965 Trent Bridge Test, in

which his brother Graeme hit a brilliant 125 to help clinch South Africa's first triumph on English soil for 10 years.

But instead of reminiscing about former glories when England and South Africa assemble at Nottingham for this week's fourth Test, Pollock will instead be sitting down to discuss the loss of Klusener after X-rays in Pretoria revealed tendon damage in his left ankle.

Klusener is due to undergo an operation today which will sideline him for around three

months, ruling him out of the Commonwealth Games at Kuala Lumpur in September but giving him plenty of time to recover for November's home series against the West Indies.

For now, Pollock's immediate concern is whether to send for a replacement in time for the fifth Test at Headingley and the triangular one-day series against England and Sri Lanka next month, or stick with the remaining 16 members in the tour party.

No decision on whether to

call up an extra man will be made until Pollock has discussed the situation with the South Africa coach, Bob Woolmer, and the tour manager, SK Reddy. Replacing Klusener is not likely to be easy, however, such is the impact he has made as a penetrating back-up for South Africa's new-ball attack and as a combative lower order batsman.

"It's obviously disappointing for Lance because he's had a very good tour and has made a big contribution, but he can

now concentrate on his recovery after he's had the operation," Woolmer said.

"We're very pleased because we have found out what the problem was. It's been a bit of a mystery up to now, but now we know the problem we can take steps to cure it."

Klusener was flown to Pretoria on Friday to consult the specialist Fil Ferreira, who has treated both Shaun Pollock and Allan Donald for similar injuries, after attempts to identify the problem failed in England.

The South Africans were initially optimistic that Klusener, who sustained the injury in Old Trafford's deep footholes during the last Test, could return this week, but after breaking down during a fitness test at Centurion Park, further X-rays revealed the damage.

But although Klusener's operation was disappointing for the tourists, there was better news about both Shaun Pollock - Peter Pollock's son - and Jacques Kallis, who both returned from recent injuries to

complete thorough workouts during the drawn tour match against Derbyshire.

Pollock was ruled out of the third Test with a thigh strain before hitting 65 not out to guide his side to victory in the 48th over.

The Scotland manager, Bert Barclay, said: "We were assured before we came that all matches in the tour division would be played on coconut matting, which has a consistent and regular bounce. When we arrived, we discovered the plans had been turned upside down by the Dutch authorities."

Their coach, Jim Love, added: "It was obvious from delivery number one that this surface was unfit."

The Netherlands manager, Hans Mulder, was equally scathing, saying: "We're just as unhappy as Scotland at having to play here. This ground was not on the original list of venues - and still should not be. The ball was doing very peculiar things from ordinary deliveries."

Lancashire struggle to fill front-line void

LANCASHIRE GO into today's County Championship game against Glamorgan fresh from Monday's uplifting last-half AXA League win over Worcestershire, but with their resources tested to the limit by Test calls and injury.

Mike Atherton and Andrew Flintoff are required by England at Trent Bridge, while Neil Fairbrother is sidelined by an ankle injury, forcing Lancashire to make changes to their team against the title holders at Colwyn Bay. Nathan Wood, Paddy McKewen and Mark Chilton have been called up to fill the void in their frontline batting.

The floodlit AXA win, watched by more than 9,000 at Old Trafford, put Lancashire second in the one-day table and has left a feeling of well-being in the ranks.

Jim Cumbers, Lancashire's chief executive, said: "If we had

got another low gate we might have been forced to reconsider our day-night plans for next season. But this game proved we are on the right track."

Glamorgan may be forced to play both their wicketkeepers today, Adrian Shaw and Ismail Dawood look set to make the line-up because of injuries to the regular opening batsmen, Steve James (finger) and Alun Evans (shin). The second team opener, Wayne Law, will have a fitness test on a recurrence of a hamstring strain before the line-up is finalised.

The Welsh side also have a problem in the pace bowling department, with Owen Parkinson not fully recovered from the shoulder strain that has sidelined him for the last few weeks. Andrew Davies will play if Parkinson is ruled out.

Derbyshire's bowling attack at Northamptonshire will be

strengthened by the return of Phillip DeFreitas. The former England seamer has been missing for three weeks with tonsillitis and a knee injury.

The opening batsman Adrian Hollins is still out with a back problem, leaving Michael May to partner Michael Slater after the Australian's century against the South Africans at Derby on Monday. Tim Twell is dropped after a run of low scores and is replaced by Robin Weston.

Richard Montgomerie returns for Northamptonshire after a six-week absence. The 27-year-old former Oxford University captain has recovered from a broken right hand and will go in first with Rob Bailey in yet another top-order experiment. The county's highest opening stand of the season is still only 35, between Montgomerie and Alec Swann against Surrey in April.

Scotland stumped by synthetic surface

Scotland 143-9; Netherlands 147-7
Netherlands win by three wickets

SCOTLAND OFFICIALS and players were angry last night after their European Championship hopes suffered a setback in The Hague. The Scots lost by three wickets to the Netherlands in a match staged on a pitch branded dangerous by both sides.

Batsmen were peppered about the body arms and hands as they tried to cope with the steep and variable bounce from a synthetic track laid on concrete. The new ball was virtually unplayable and, among the five top-order batsmen from either team, the leading score was 33 by Scotland opener Bruce Patterson.

He said: "The ball just exploded at you - even from bowlers who are far from fast. One of the purposes of this tournament is to help develop the game among the lesser cricket nations. There's no chance of that happening in these conditions."

Patterson and Co struggled to 143 for 9, with the Netherlands passing the target after their own nightmare. Luuk Van Troost took five cheap wickets before hitting 65 not out to guide his side to victory in the 48th over.

The Scotland manager, Bert Barclay, said: "We were assured before we came that all matches in the tour division would be played on coconut matting, which has a consistent and regular bounce. When we arrived, we discovered the plans had been turned upside down by the Dutch authorities."

Their coach, Jim Love, added: "It was obvious from delivery number one that this surface was unfit."

The Netherlands manager, Hans Mulder, was equally scathing, saying: "We're just as unhappy as Scotland at having to play here. This ground was not on the original list of venues - and still should not be. The ball was doing very peculiar things from ordinary deliveries."

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

AXA League Warwickshire v Essex

EDGBASTON (Day 1 of 1):
Essex won 100-0

Essex - First Innings					
	Runs	6s	4s	Bis	Mins
P J Prichard b Smithies	19	0	0	35	44
S G Law c Welch b Smithies	40	0	2	53	73
S O Peters run out	1	0	1	15	13
R C Irani not out	28	0	1	47	50
O R Law c Brown b Smithies	39	1	3	37	34
A P Grayson not out	0	0	0	0	0
Total (for 1, 50 overs)	140				
Fall: (1-17) 1-171.					
Did Not Bat: K Rolton, M Jones, B Colver, O Magno, J Price.					
Bowling: C L Taylor 7-0-37-0, S Colver 10-2-42-0, K Smithies 10-0-46-0, C Connor 6-0-31-0, K Winks 6-0-41-0, K Leng 6-0-30-0, M Raymond 5-1-28-1.					

England v Australia					
	Runs	6s	4s	Bis	Mins
B Clark c Winks b Reynard	89	0	10	115	118
L Keightley not out	113	0	7	140	175
J Broad not out	42	0	3	47	55
Extras (b1 w5 nb2)	12				
Total (for 1, 50 overs)	256				
Fall: (1-17) 1-171.					
Did Not Bat: K Rolton, M Jones, B Colver, O Magno, J Price.					
Bowling: C L Taylor 7-0-37-0, S Colver 10-2-42-0, K Smithies 10-0-46-0, C Connor 6-0-31-0, K Winks 6-0-41-0, K Leng 6-0-30-0, M Raymond 5-1-28-1.					

Fifth Women's One Day International

England v Australia

LORD'S: Australia beat England by 114 runs

Essex won 100-0

Australia - First Innings					
	Runs	6s	4s	Bis	Mins
B Clark c Winks b Reynard	89	0	10	115	118
L Keightley not out	113	0	7	140	175
J Broad not out	42	0	3	47	55
Extras (b1 w5 nb2)	12				
Total (for 1, 50 overs)	256				
Fall: (1-17) 1-171.					
Did Not Bat: K Rolton, M Jones, B Colver, O Magno, J Price.					
Bowling: C L Taylor 7-0-37-0, S Colver 10-2-42-0, K Smithies 10-0-46-0, C Connor 6-0-31-0, K Winks 6-0-41-0, K Leng 6-0-30-0, M Raymond 5-1-28-1.					

England - First Innings					
	Runs	6s	4s	Bis	Mins
C Edwards c Fahey b Fitzpatrick	20	0	3	64	80
K Leng c Magno b Mason	0	0	0	1	1
B Daniels b Fitzpatrick	17	0	2	38	68
K Smithies not out	17	0	2	34	24
C Connor b Fitzpatrick	8	0	0	28	26
J Cassar c Price b Rolton	0	0	0	28	28
S Metcalfe bow b Fitzpatrick	5	0	0	37	43
M Reynard b Fitzpatrick	0	0	0	0	2
C L Taylor not out	0	0	0	2	2
Extras (b1 w4)	5				
Total (for 7, 50 overs)	142				
Fall: (1-2) 2-41, 3-48, 4-74, 5-93, 6-140, 7-140.					
Did Not Bat: S Colver, K Winks.					
Bowling: C Mason 10-1-24-1, O Magno 6-3-15-0, B Colver 10-0-30-0, C Fitzpatrick 10-1-47-5, A Fahey 7-2-16-0, K Rolton 7-3-9-1.					
Umpires: L Elgar and J West.					

Today's fixtures (11.00 unless stated)

Britannia Assurance Championship. (Day 1 of 4).

Gloucestershire v Somerset. Gloucestershire v Somerset. Gloucestershire v Somerset. Gloucestershire v Somerset.

Gloucestershire v Somerset. Gloucestershire v Somerset. Gloucestershire v Somerset. Gloucestershire v Somerset.

Gloucestershire v Somerset. Gloucestershire v Somerset. Gloucestershire v Somerset. Gloucestershire v Somerset.

Pinsent plots stealthy course to stardom

BRITISH SPORTSMAN, twice Olympic champion, five times world champion, MBE - who is he? Steve Redgrave? No. Give us a clue. Another rower. Oh of course, the other fellow... what's his name? Pinsent. That's it. Matthew Pinsent.

It is difficult to think of many athletes from this country who have achieved so much, yet managed to keep such a low profile outside of their own sport, but that seems to be the job of partnering a legend like Redgrave.

Now, of course, that burden is shared by three men in a coxless four - Pinsent, Tim Foster, and James Cracknell - as Redgrave goes in search of a fifth Olympic gold medal, not to mention an eighth world title in Cologne in September. But before all that, and since his first two gold medals in Los Angeles and Seoul, it was the years spent in a coxless pair with Pinsent that really established Redgrave as one of the all-time great Olympians.

Pinsent, at 27 almost nine years younger than Redgrave, seems more than happy to have played second fiddle in Barcelona and Atlanta. "Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent is better than Steve Redgrave and Joe Blogs," he said, reflecting upon his status at the London Rowing Club in Putney last week.

But should Pinsent win a third Olympic gold medal in two years' time, and should he decide to carry on beyond Sydney, the chances are he will transcend the sport in this country in exactly the same way as Redgrave has done. "Steve gets more publicity than he wants," he said, "but we don't do it to get our names in the papers. At the end of the day he's won twice as many Olympic gold medals as I have, so he deserves some credit that I don't get."

In complete contrast to Redgrave, who left school in Marlow at 16 to concentrate on rowing full-time, Pinsent graduated via Eton and Oxford, and nowadays an easy, uncomplicated manner allied to his imposing bearing make him a splendid ambassador for the British establishment. The son of a vicar, he was born in Norfolk but spent his formative years in Kelso in the Scottish borders, before attending Eton, where he learned to row.

In pursuit of a third successive Olympic gold, Steve Redgrave's shadow is happy keeping a low profile. By Adam Szreter

"I wasn't particularly good at the sport until I was 17," he explained. "I wasn't really big for my age until I was about 16, and then it took me another year to get used to the technique, but once I'd got that I became much more competitive."

He soon made his mark internationally, winning the world junior coxless pairs title with Foster in 1988 before going up to Oxford to study geography the following year. Twice a Boat Race winner and on one occasion a loser while he was there, Pinsent clearly looks back on his university days with a great deal of affection.

'Steve Redgrave has won twice as many Olympic medals as I have, so he deserves some credit that I don't get'

"The Boat Race is a bit like Henley," he said. "It's totally different to anything else in the rowing calendar. It's good to have experienced it but you've got to keep it in perspective. It's not the best standard of rowing in the world and everyone knows that, but the attention that it gets is amazing. I would keep my Boat Race medals in my hypothetical medal cabinet fairly near the top. I should imagine."

It was towards the end of his first year at Oxford that the 19-year-old Pinsent teamed up with Redgrave for the first time, replacing the injured Simon Berrisford. "I was obviously pretty nervous, but I was also aware that I wanted to make it an equal partnership and that it was never going to work if it wasn't. But it was apparent within the first couple of weeks of being together that it was going to go well, and it wasn't a problem mentally."

Little more than a year later they were world champions as a pair

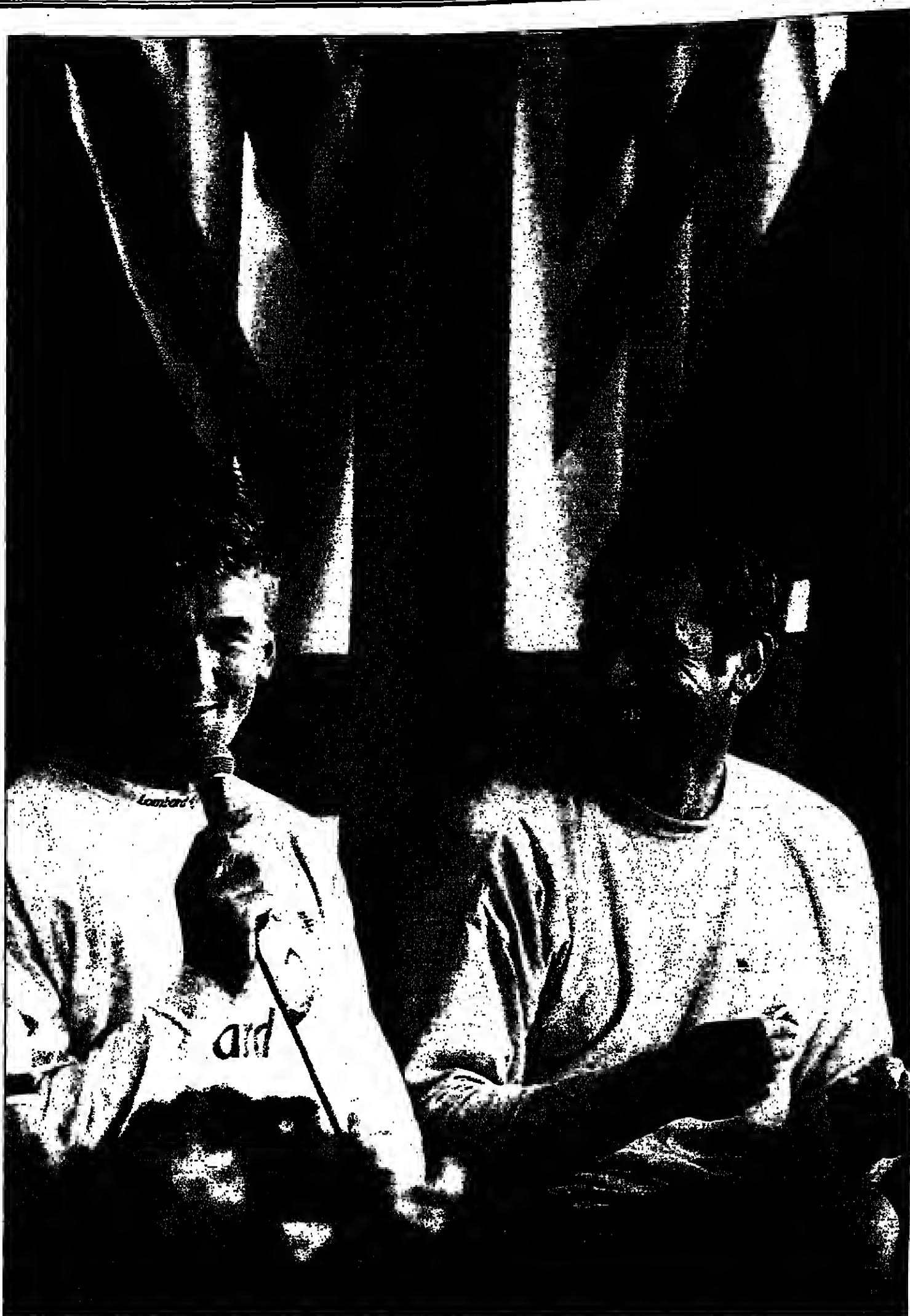
for the first time, and did not look back until they crossed the line for gold in Atlanta two years ago.

After that Redgrave famously invited anyone to shoot him should he go near a boat again, but Pinsent too was considering his future. "I wouldn't necessarily have wanted to carry on with Steve in the pair after Atlanta," he said, "and I was certainly unsure in my own mind whether I wanted to carry on at all. But I think those decisions are best left until well after the Games when you can establish some kind of firm footing to make them. There are any number of factors that go into the decision to put yourself through four years of training running up to the next Games. As you get older I'm sure it gets harder - you only have to look at Steve to see that."

One of the main reasons for Redgrave's outburst was the amount of time spent away from his family in single-minded pursuit of his goals, and although Pinsent is not yet responsible for any children he does have his girlfriend to consider. "There's no doubt that it's harder for Steve to justify the time away, and there's a sense of him dragging his family through another Olympics," he said. "But my private life is relatively free and I don't spend all my time away from the river thinking about rowing, thankfully."

One distraction is playing rugby for a pub side at home in Henley - "keen but not accomplished, I would say" - and he has already made some provision for the future by dabbling in sports journalism.

"I was very careful to write as much away from rowing as I could, but of course that's the leg up that gets you there in the first place," he said. As for the long, royal seal of approval? "Yes, I'm in favour of that. I am actually a royalist, but it's really nice to be picked out from the wide variety of people who get honours, and it's a privilege to be able to put those letters after your name."



Matthew Pinsent and Steve Redgrave, ready to lead Britain at the 1998 World Championships in Cologne

Robert Hollam

Becker to try to make amends for Davis Cup

TENNIS

BORIS BECKER overcame searing temperatures to sweep past Italy's Andrea Gaudenzi in straight sets to reach the second round of the Mercedes Cup in Stuttgart yesterday.

The three-times Wimbledon champion, now semi-retired and playing only the events he chooses, took just 73 minutes to heat Gaudenzi, who is ranked 36 in the world. Becker attacked the net constantly, displaying some of the shots that once made him the world's top player on his way to a 6-1, 7-5 victory.

Despite temperatures on court above 40C, the 30-year-old Becker took the first set in just 26 minutes and now plays France's Cedric Pioline, who benefited from a first-round bye, for a place in the third round.

Becker found his motivation for victory after blaming himself for Germany's 3-2 defeat by Sweden in Davis Cup over the weekend after he was on the losing side in the key doubles match.

"I had to make amends out there today," Becker said. "But that was a lot like I played at the Swiss Open." Only two weeks ago, Becker came close to winning a clay-court title at the Swiss Open, losing in the final to Alex Corretja of Spain.

In recent months, Becker has become the dominant figure in German tennis off court. He has formed a management group, become the head of the Davis Cup team and set up a programme to develop the country's talent.

Most of the top seeds at the tournament including the No 1 seed Marcelo Rios, the defending champion Corretja and Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov do not play until today.

In other matches yesterday, Slava Dosedel of the Czech Republic beat Marc Rosset of Switzerland 6-3, 6-4 and the Spaniard Carlos Costa beat Radomir Vasek 6-2, 6-0, while Dominik Hrbaty of Slovakia, overcame the No 16 seed Nicolas Escude of France, 2-6, 6-3, 6-3 in the second round.

Julich keeps up appearances

CYCLING

By ROBIN NICHOLL with the Tour de France

BOBBY JULICH, of the United States, emerged from the mist that clung to the Pyrenean peaks, the new shadow for Jan Ullrich, who recaptured the yellow jersey of Tour de France leader that he lost two days ago.

As the German's forceful riding dispatched contenders such as Spain's Abraham Olano and the World No 1 Laurent Jalabert of France, Julich held on over four major mountains.

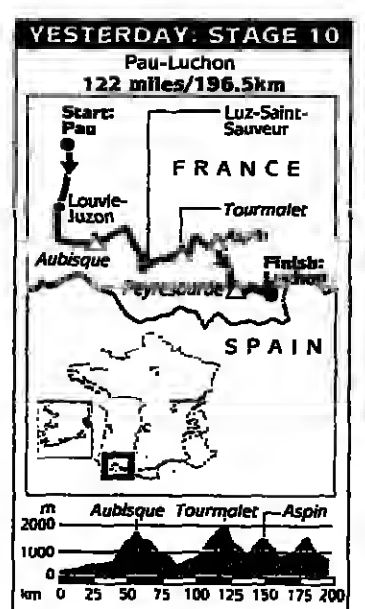
They could not catch the Italian Rodolfo Massi, who won the 196km race from Pau, but of the men who stayed with Ullrich, Julich, has become the one to watch. He is 1min 18sec behind Ullrich and almost a minute clear of the third-placed Dane Bo Hamburger, but nothing has come easy for him.

Five years ago he was offering his racing services free to any team that would have him, and in 1995 a mainstream American team, Motorola, took on the 26-year-old.

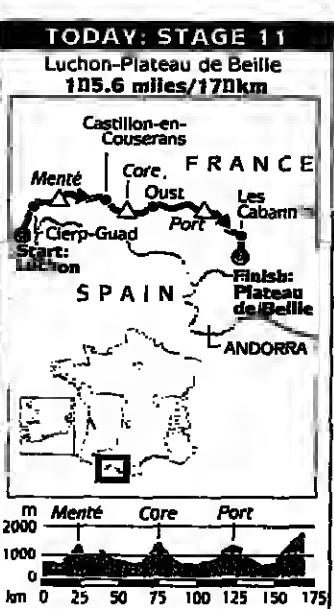
At the time Lance Armstrong was seen as the successor to the triple Tour winner Greg LeMond, but cancer set back the Texan's career. Julich gave Americans new hope

with his ninth overall placing in the 1996 Vuelta a Espana, then a heart problem was diagnosed. It did not stop Julich racing, but until corrective surgery he suffered rapid falls in blood pressure and would faint.

Now he is proving a strong threat, if not for the yellow jersey then certainly to be the first American on the final Tour podium in Paris since LeMond eight years ago.



YESTERDAY, STAGE 10 Pau-Luchon 122 miles/196.5km



TODAY, STAGE 11 Luchon-Plateau de Beille 105.6 miles/170km

Yesterday, with Ullrich taking command of the chase, the contenders went hunting. The Frenchman Cédric Vasseur, who spent five days last year in the yellow jersey, Massi and the Italian Alberto Elli opened a lead of seven minutes as first they climbed the Tourmalet, where thousands of spectators were shrouded in low cloud.

This legendary mountain was

lost in the mist, but its 18 kilometres of narrow, exacting roads made their impression as the field spreadeagled. Among the first to slide out of the pack was Laurent Desbiens, his two days as wearer of the yellow jersey destined to become a memory.

On the final mountain, Peyresourde, Massi was alone, but had to resist a late broadside from Marco Pantani, known to his Italian fans as *Il Pirata*. With his shaven head swathed in a blue bandanna, the bearded racer romped away from Ullrich and company as though they were standing still. He topped the mountain and closed to within 36 seconds of Massi over a 15km descent into the spa town of Luchon.

The Dutchman Michael Boogerd claimed third, 59 seconds behind Massi, with Ullrich, Julich and a mix of Spanish, Italian and Danish riders in close attendance. The rest of the Tour field was spread as far back as half an hour in arrears, and 17 had already quit, including Francesco Casagrande, one of Italy's main contenders, following a crash on the slippery mountain roads.

Massi had seized his chance on the slopes of Peyresourde, then had to fight off cramp as well as Pantani in the final kilometres. Ullrich was content to let Massi go, but Pantani was a definite threat, although he began the day five minutes in ar-

rears of the German. He is now 4min 41sec away from the No 1 spot with more opportunities in the mountains to come.

Ullrich, however, feels confident about today's stage of five mountain passes, which finish with a climb to the Plateau de Beille ski station near the border with Andorra. Weeks before the Tour, Ullrich had signalled his fitness for the Tour by winning there in the Route du Sud.

TOUR DE FRANCE 10th stage (123 miles, 199.5km) 1st R. Massi (Fr) 2nd C. Vasseur (Fr) 3rd M. Boogerd (Neth) 4th M. Pantani (It) 5th L. Desbiens (Fr) 6th A. Elli (It) 7th F. Escarot (Sp) 8th J. Massi (Fr) 9th J. Massi (Fr) 10th J. Massi (Fr) 11th J. Massi (Fr) 12th J. Massi (Fr) 13th J. Massi (Fr) 14th J. Massi (Fr) 15th J. Massi (Fr) 16th J. Massi (Fr) 17th J. Massi (Fr) 18th J. Massi (Fr) 19th J. Massi (Fr) 20th J. Massi (Fr) 21st J. Massi (Fr) 22nd J. Massi (Fr) 23rd J. Massi (Fr) 24th J. Massi (Fr) 25th J. Massi (Fr) 26th J. Massi (Fr) 27th J. Massi (Fr) 28th J. Massi (Fr) 29th J. Massi (Fr) 30th J. Massi (Fr) 31st J. Massi (Fr) 32nd J. Massi (Fr) 33rd J. Massi (Fr) 34th J. Massi (Fr) 35th J. Massi (Fr) 36th J. Massi (Fr) 37th J. Massi (Fr) 38th J. Massi (Fr) 39th J. Massi (Fr) 40th J. Massi (Fr) 41st J. Massi (Fr) 42nd J. Massi (Fr) 43rd J. Massi (Fr) 44th J. Massi (Fr) 45th J. Massi (Fr) 46th J. Massi (Fr) 47th J. Massi (Fr) 48th J. Massi (Fr) 49th J. Massi (Fr) 50th J. 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SPORT

FIRST WOMAN CENTURION OF LORD'S P23 • PINSENT'S STELLAR RISE P26

Mountain mists make even the Tour leader look lost



The Tour de France headed into the mountains yesterday on a day when Jan Ullrich, the reigning champion, saw the hopes of some of his rivals disappear into the mists of the Pyrenees. Among those who could not live with the pace was the holder of the yellow jersey, Laurent Desbiens (above), who dismounted on the descent of the Col d'Anbisque as he waited in vain for his team-mate, Francesco Casagrande, who had to retire after suffering injuries in a fall. Ullrich took over the yellow jersey after finishing less than a minute behind the stage winner, Rodolfo Massi. The American Bobby Julich has emerged as Ullrich's main challenger.

Tour reports, page 26; Photographs: AP and Reuters

Liverpool chase keeper Barthez

FOOTBALL
BY ALAN NIXON

LIVERPOOL'S NEW manager, Gerard Houllier, intends to bring a new goalkeeper to Anfield, and is making enquiries about Paraguay's Jose Luis Chilavert and France's Fabien Barthez.

Houllier, who has the main say in transfer matters, has decided that neither Brad Friedel nor David James are suitable in Liverpool's No 1 position. He has already had a £2m offer for Chilavert rejected, but still now

hopes to install a new man in time for the start of the season. Chilavert, 32, is rated at over £3m by his Argentinian club, Velez Sarsfield, and is keen to come to England. He was superb in the World Cup finals and generally rated one of the best in the business. A maverick player, he also takes free-kicks and penalties, but it was his safe hands and motivational qualities that impressed in France.

The Velez Sarsfield president, Raul Gamez, said Liverpool had offered £2m but the club want £3.3m. "The offer that Liverpool made is similar to one Boca Juniors made last year which we didn't accept," he said. "If you take into account that Chilavert was one of the main stars of the World Cup we can't sell him for the amount of money we are being offered."

Chilavert, livid at the decision, said: "This shows me that the people in charge at the club are the players' enemies. They've completely messed me around and until they pay me what they owe me I'm not training. I am nearly 33, and for myself and Velez Sarsfield it was a barbaric business decision to turn down this [Liverpool] bid."

It is understood that Liverpool are still proceeding with their enquiries and may increase their offer. Their other option, Barthez, is available for £3m from Monaco. The World Cup winner was a surprise success in France and is keen to move to England. He turned down Marselles this week to spark speculation about joining Liverpool.

Houllier has decided he needs a top flight goalkeeper in his attempt to revive Liverpool's fortunes in the wake of his arrival. Friedel had a mixed start to his career at Anfield but finished the season as first choice. James lost his place after some horrific mistakes and his unpredictability has cost him any long-term chance of a recall.

Houllier completed his first foray into the transfer market yesterday when he completed the £3.5m signing of Norwegian defender, Vegard Heggem. Everton have confirmed their interest in the Monaco and Scotland midfielder, John Collins. "We have made an inquiry along with a number of other clubs," Walter Smith, the Everton manager, said. "We will have to wait the outcome of that. We still have a fair bit to go before we can say that we have entered into full negotiations."

THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD
No. 3669, Wednesday 22 July By Aquila

Across

- 1 Idler used to be a better half (6)
- 4 Branch cricket-side take photographs (8)
- 10 The state of a US dramatist (9)
- 11 One takes long looks at last character in exotic gear (5)
- 12 Wild pear harvest (4)
- 13 Shades of having celebrated with girls? (10)
- 15 Heart of Midlothian greeting in play (7)
- 16 Tense, say, having been coached... (6)
- 19... coached for first-class degree (6)
- 21 Beam going through earhole? (7)
- 23 Pitcher laid on the table (6-4)

Down

- 25 Tableland found in America sometimes - Arizona, perhaps (4)
- 27 Loincloth terribly uncomfortable in outskirts of Delhi (5)
- 28 Second mowing ordered at the farm (9)
- 29 Light work, we hear, on the stage? (8)
- 30 Hasten to resort, S European city (6)
- 1 Battle-station (3)
- 2 One on beach suffering heat burns? (9)
- 3 Garden in landscaped environment (4)
- 5 Goods conveyed by French boat-crew (7)
- 6 Hancock's reported hand-marks? (10)

Tuesday's Solution

OVERDRAWN STIMULE
U M I R I N
TAPESIRY GARBIC
W E H V L A
T O H L E N P
S I R M A N E A S T E N
D I V E
S E V E N Y E A R L I C H
G A E A R W U
A F T E R G O W O O B U R
L A S H P P I
L I N E A L W E R E W O L F
A I R E R L E
O A C T I V E O L E A N D E R

Delays threaten Foe's transfer

BY ALAN NIXON

MANCHESTER UNITED are trying to tie up a £4m deal for Marco Vivien Foe in secret to beat off rival bids from Everton and Newcastle United.

It had been reported that the Cameroon midfielder had gone back to his club, Lens, in France on Monday after failing medical checks on a broken leg. In fact, Foe stayed in Manchester for a further X-ray at a local private hospital before meeting Alex Ferguson, the United manager, again at the club's training ground yesterday.

Ferguson was said to be unhappy when he discovered that there were other clubs trying to sign Foe, a player he has chased for months. Nor were United pleased that the price had gone up as a result. United at first issued an official statement saying that Foe was "considerably away from fitness". However, it is believed that they have been hoping for more time to sort out the player's future in further talks.

happy with the suggestions that Foe has an injury problem, feeling that their player has been made to look like a bad buy.

The delays could lead to United not getting their man. Foe is adamant that he moves in the next few days and if United do not come up with the right terms he may go elsewhere. Ferguson is desperate to secure his signature and some hard bargaining will be done in the next 48 hours.

However, now the reports of Foe's return to France have been found to be false, Everton and Newcastle are back on red alert.

Ferguson looks to have secured one of his transfer targets yesterday, Jesper Blomqvist agreeing personal terms with

United. The Swedish international winger underwent a medical at Old Trafford yesterday and is expected to sign for around £5m from Italian side Parma today.

Blomqvist had wavered over the deal, as he was unsure of his role at Old Trafford, but after a telephone conversation with Ferguson, the 24-year-old has agreed to sign.

Blackburn have held talks with central defender Colin Hendry to reassure him he remains the backbone of their side. The Scottish captain - who still has three years left on his contract at Ewood Park - has been linked with a move to Rangers, but Blackburn have again said he is not leaving.

Rovers' chief executive, John Williams, insists that Blackburn have no intention of selling Hendry, who is due to start a benefit season. "I met with Colin just to make sure we all knew what the situation was and he knows how important he is in our plans for the coming season," Williams said.

Tottenham are still interested in signing Ipswich's Argentinian wing-back Mauricio Taricco. The 25-year-old, signed for £175,000 from Argentinos Juniors four years ago, is highly rated by Spurs' new chief scout Charlie Woods - who moved to White Hart Lane from Ipswich earlier this month.

The Ipswich chairman, David Sheepshanks, confirmed there has been an inquiry from Spurs about Taricco and said: "The ball is in Tottenham's court."



Foe: Keen on Old Trafford

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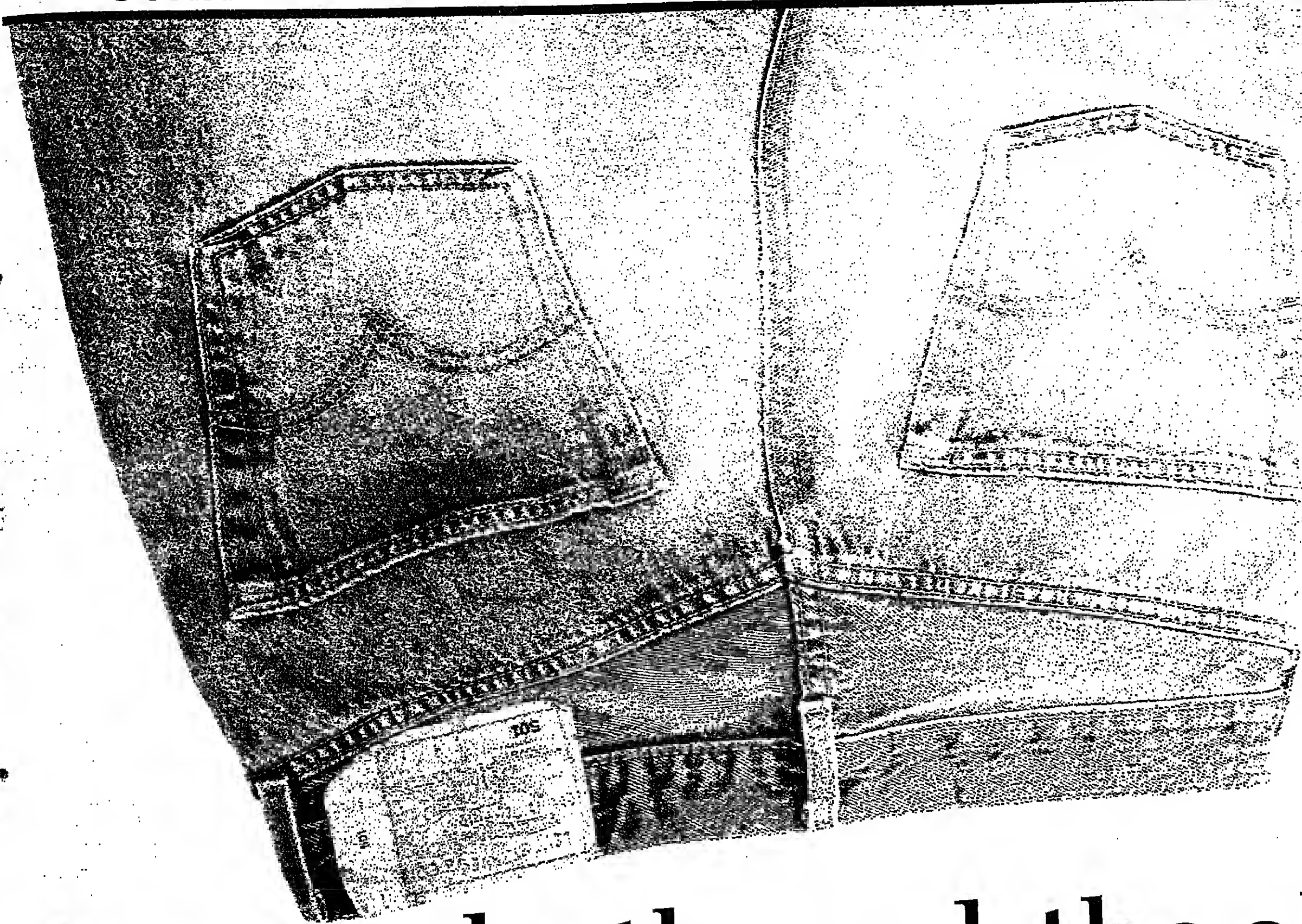
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WEDNESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



As worn by the sad, the old and Jeremy Clarkson

(So if the bottom's falling out of the jeans market, why are Levi's and company so pleased with themselves?)

Back in my day, the choice of rebellious legwear was pretty limited if you happened to grow up outside London. The option one was to send away to some dodgy London PO box on, via a small ad in the back of the *NME* for a pair of "split knee looms". These arrived eight weeks later, paper thin, with drunkenly stitched hems and a size too small. They looked good if you happened to have a physique like Robert Plant in his skinny prime, and pretty damn stupid if you did not. Leather strides were another thing, but you couldn't get into many pubs round my way looking like a dirty grebo. You could wait a couple of years for Vivienne Westwood and Malcolm McLaren to invent boogie trousers, then wait a further year or two for the nasty, snide copies to make their way along. Or M&S? One could wear jeans.

I chose jeans, mainly because I didn't have much choice but also because I had seen pictures of James Dean and Marlon Brando wearing them. I had been sold the American dream via advertising hoardings and cinema commercials and it had hooked me good and proper.

Jean's, and we're talking about the kind of pale blue, bromide duds you can buy at Tesco here, are not rebellious any more. They are "normal." Michael Winner wears jeans. In fact, worse than that, Michael Winner talks about how he wears jeans, boasting in his *Sunday Times* restaurant column that he pulls on a pair when he dines at establishments where more formal attire is usually required. Ooh, what a wild one.

Tony Blair wears jeans when he's laying the People's PM thing on thick, and Ian "Lovejoy" McShane wears jeans with cowboy boots and a leather jacket. He also sports a mullet hairstyle (short on top

and "leave it long at the back, please") which completes the look rather nicely. Jeremy Clarkson, though rather taller than Lovejoy, teeds toward a similar style. He dresses like a lanky Uppingham sixth-former who uses phrases such as "this car has the kind of looks that could snap knicker elastic at 100 yards", and still believes that the Tom Robinson Band's first album is the epitome of cool: suede cowboy boots, black leather jacket and oasty, really nasty, stone-washed jeans.

And what do all these people have in common? They are middle-aged and very, very uncool. It was this rather sorry trio of male anti-icons (Easy Jeans wearers all, if you ask me) that the *Daily Mail* picked out earlier this week, as the men to blame for the slump in sales of jeans.

It was bound to happen. According to a report compiled for the clothing industry by the researchers AC Nielsen, annual sales have fallen from 22 million to 18.8 million pairs, shrinking the market from £609.5 million in 1996/97 to £561.2 million in 1998. The researchers are putting this down to what one tabloid has nicknamed "the Clarkson effect". Fun though it is to lay the blame at the door of the *Top Gear* presenter and his fellow style-donkeys, it has to be admitted that there are other reasons too.

The decline of the jean can also be attributed to the first real major trouser cut for 20 years – combat pants. These days the combat trouser is king. Combs, or as they've now been rechristened by the people at The Gap, "cargo pants", are the new jeans. Bona fide Army surplus may have dried up years ago, but it probably will not have escaped your notice that the market for freshly manufactured Army strides, with pockets half-way down the thighs, booming. Just cast your eye across any of Britain's high streets and you will see that around half of the people under 30, girls and boys, are wearing them.

But as this military boom enters its third summer, putting the kibosh on any resurgence in the denim market, what must be so galling for the folks down at Levi Strauss and Wrangler is this: jeans have never been so hip.

Among Britain's stylish smartypants, the jean is still king. It is worn baggy and oversized, with massive turn-ups - the crucial red "selvedge" stripe on the outside seam proudly on display, and a bold splash of white paint across the back pockets in a side-on "3" design. That logo may look a bit like the Levi's machine-stitched back-pocket swoosh, but it really belongs to the Japanese clothing label Evisu, which is where it all gets a bit complicated.

Nowadays, teenagers are spoiled rotten for choice in the trouser department. They can wear

BY SIMON MILLS

chinos, khakis, combats, haggies and sweat pants. They even wear shorts and sarongs. Well David Beckham does anyway. They wear trousers in velvet, canvas and cord. They really do prefer man-made fabrics such as nylon, ultrasuede, Gore-tex, Polartec fleece, to natural ones like cotton and cashmere. They are not intimidated by modernity. In deed they embrace it, and appreciate it with cyber-accessories such as the ubiquitous Casio G-Shock digital wristwatch and pairs of silver Nike Air Max which look like the kind of shoes Luke Skywalker would have pestered his mum for, had there been a J-D Sports in a galaxy far, far away. Authenticity, a key word in the Filofax style lexicon, is not particularly at issue today. Fakes are admired, copies are worn ironically. "Classics" are deconstructed, thoroughly examined, improved and then sold back to the G-Shock kids for silly money. Which means back to those clever people at Evisu.

Long acknowledged as confirmed jean junkies (the late Eighties were littered with stories of people being stopped on the King's Road by trendy Japs who would offer £800 cash for the vintage Big E jean jacket off your back) the Japanese are also known to be terrific and thorough imitators.

With Evisu, the smart Tokyo designer Mr Yamane, who started the brand, simply watched his fashionable friends scrambling around, endlessly searching for denim nirvana and the perfect pair of unworn, dark blue "big E" 501s (which they would probably never find) and gave them a credible alternative. Evisu jeans (formerly Evis - but that proved to be a bit too much for Levi's) were a slow-burning suc-

Evisu cost serious money (an average pair sells for £120) but they were serious jeans too – prefect-style fodder for the transpoiting mentality of those who were spending daft amounts on rare Nikes and old Pac Man video-game consoles. These days Evisu has a £1m turnover in the UK and is available in about 65 outlets. Not huge figures, you may think but enough of a warning for Levi's and co that the market is changing. The idea of a "no-authentic" pair of American jeans run up by some Far Eastern chancer would be absurd to the stylists of my day. But, hey, that's kids today for you.

There is another element to the decline in jeans sales. Over the years the purity of jeans, that original, no-nonsense workwear *non-design* beauty which jeans once had, has been spoiled with over-diversification. Levi's is now acknowledged as a clothing brand as much as it is a jeans brand. The company does sweatshirts, T-shirts, belts, underwear. And jeans.

Despite this, Levi's big-production TV ads continue to get the nod from the Soho in-the-know looking for breaking in new, cutting-edge directors and spawning hit records. Predictably, of all the big three (that

Levi's, Lee and Wrangler) it is Levi's that has embarked upon the most creative rearguard action.

Its flagship store on London's Regent Street is still a genuine retail wonderland – a cavernous mini-mall that continues to delight visiting teenagers. The company has also started producing the styles that Evisu and co had the nous to imitate in the first place. Most recently a limited edition pair, produced by the San-Francisco-based company to celebrate its 150th anniversary, has got the denim cognoscenti foaming at the mouth.

Only 150 pairs have been made, they promise, to the original specifications of the first-ever pair of Levi's. We're talking serious less-is-more stuff here. These limited-edition pants are made from the darkest indigo denim, and have only one back pocket, no belt loops and only three fly buttons.

No doubt they will prove to be worth a fortune to both collectors and to Levi Strauss, which clearly sees such clever marketing as a vital step in confirming its status as the world's jean king.

The sales of Levi's jeans may have fallen by 7 per cent (Wranglers are down 9 per cent, Lee's have fallen by 12.9 per cent) but before you shed a tear for the world's most renowned denim behemoth, read on.

Levi's diffusion brand Dockers, the answer to the sartorial problem thrown up by the "dress-down Friday" phenomenon in America is doing rather well, thank you very much. These inoffensive, khaki-influenced slacks have proved to be the hot pants of the Nineties, and between their introduction in 1986 and 1994 sales had reached \$1bn, with more than 150 million pairs sold in less than 10 years. Some 90 per cent of American men aged between 18 and 49 are aware of the Dockers brand and two out of three of them own a pair. On average they own three pairs each.

What was that about writing off Levi's and co, son

BY SIMON MILLS

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Curbing the car

Sir: David Aaronovitch's excellent article on the challenge of getting people out of their cars ("Sorry, Mr Prescott, but only coercion will drive our cars off the road", 21 July) made many salient points. It is a huge challenge.

However, he is wrong to assume that "even substantially enhanced public transport reduces car use only marginally". In Manchester, the example he quotes, the Metrolink tram system has taken 2.5 million car journeys every year off the road, and 65 per cent of its passengers own a car. This is a significant result, and across the UK, in towns and cities where transport providers and local authorities work in tandem on traffic planning, bus passenger figures have been going up, by up to 40 per cent. The Government has chosen to formalise these "quality partnerships", and more will subsequently be springing up across the country.

No one pretends that any solution will be instant or easy. What this Government has done with its transport White Paper is to provide an environment in which public transport can flourish. Gradually, through a mixture of the coercion that Mr Aaronovitch proposes and improved public transport provision, the habitual car driver will get the message. MICHAEL BARTLETT
Confederation of Passenger Transport UK
London WC2

Sir: David Aaronovitch, like almost everyone writing on urban transport planning, implies that there is no personal transport between a bicycle and a car.

There is - the powered two-wheeler (PTW). I mean not the noisy, splashy, only "motorcycle", but the modern, clean, weather-resistant, user-friendly scooter (in its new incarnation with automatic drive and choke, excellent suspension and brakes and useful luggage provision). There is also its big brother - the latest innovation - the feet-forward super scooter (known as the "sofa-bike" in Germany).

Sales are climbing faster than for any other type of vehicle as more and more people learn of their comfort, convenience and economy. Transport planners need to take real notice and include the needs of PTWs in their planning. Think of the reduction in congestion, road wear, fuel use, pollution and parking problems when even one third (a realistic proportion) of solitary rush-hour car drivers have taken to 100mpg, narrow, light two-wheelers. IAN LESLIE
Ludlow, Shropshire

Sir: With all the talk of protecting the environment by reducing the number of cars on the road no one, it seems, is facing up to reality. The political parties are united in one thing: their solution is to increase the cost of motoring, particularly the price of petrol. The £6 gallon is envisaged; they can then sit back and wait for the extra revenue to pour into the Treasury.

The only people who will be forced to give up their cars as a result of this measure will be those least able to do without them. People in rural communities have already been penalised by "centralisation". In many areas they have lost their local post office, grocery store, school, doctor and cottage hospital. They have no choice but to use their cars, as bus services in such areas are virtually non-existent.

There is one remedy which would be fair to all - petrol rationing. It has been done before: a basic allowance of coupons for every car owner, with supplements for doctors, taxi firms, hauliers, in fact any business dependent on the mobility of its staff.

The rest of us would soon come to terms with the need to husband our quota of coupons, to cut out unnecessary local journeys and conserve their use for that longer trip. The railway and bus services would be encouraged by the greater demand to improve their

timetables, and perhaps even to lower their prices.

Of course there would be howls of outrage if any party had the courage to propose this, but only by drastic action will anything be achieved. If, as we are warned, the number of cars is set to double in 10-15 years, what is the alternative? MRS KATHLEEN J WOOD
Bournemouth, Dorset

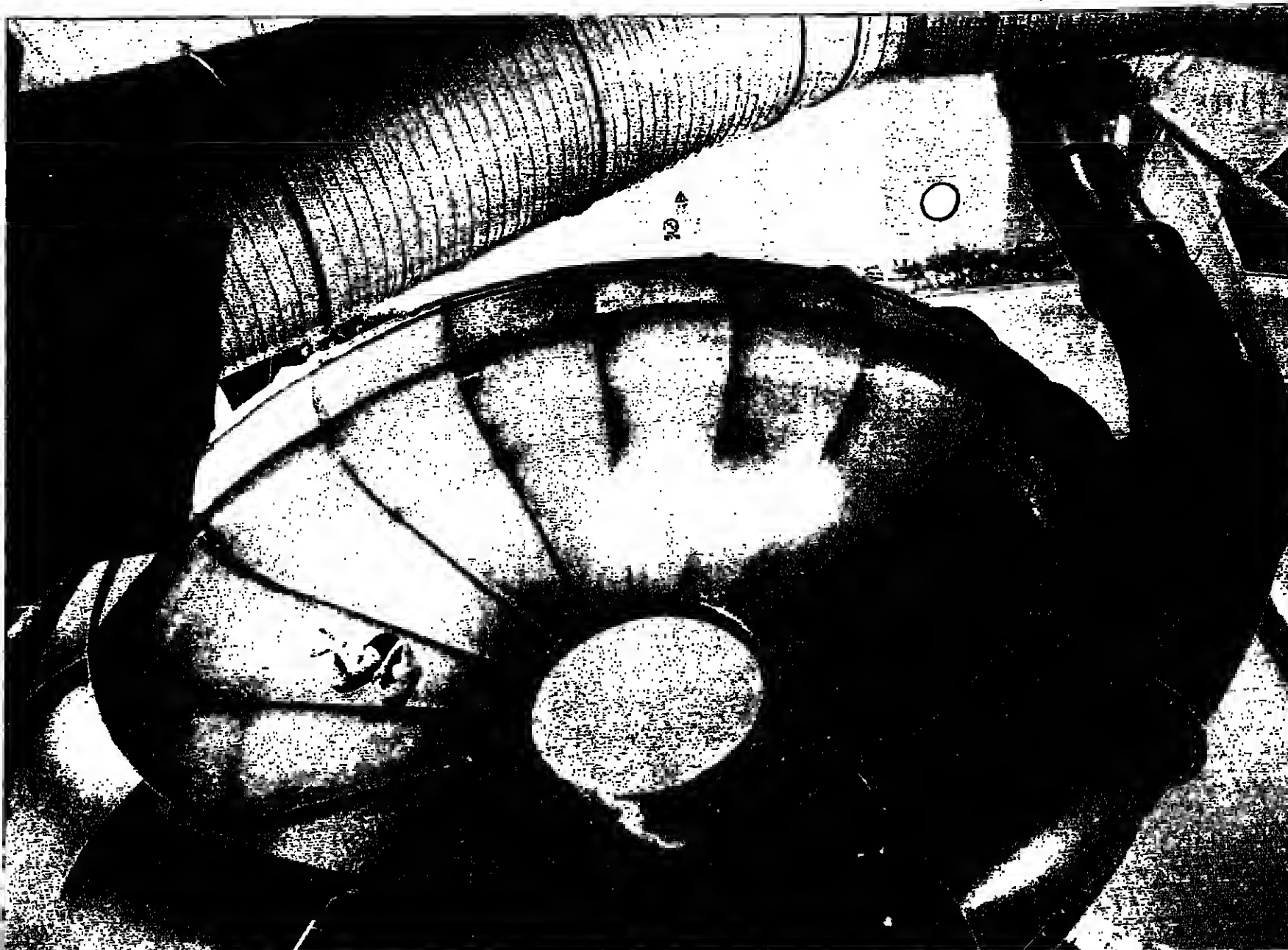
Sir: Having recently fled London's filthy, overcrowded, over-priced, unreliable and distinctly insalubrious public transport system, can I point out that the only way the Government can lure motorists away from their cars is to ensure that trains, tube trains and buses are clean, frequent, fast, reliable and, most importantly, safe? It is essential that uniformed staff are around in abundance to discourage fighting, vomiting, harassment, vandalism, the letting-off of fire extinguishers and worse.

Unfortunately many motorists, particularly women, will continue to prefer to sit in traffic jams in the relative safety of their cars unless something is done to reverse the trend towards unmanned stations and trains and one-man buses. This trend represents a false economy and a change of policy would create much needed job opportunities. BARRY NELSON
Darlington, Co Durham

Sir: There are at least three problems associated with the traditional tramway ("New drives for a car-free future", 17 July). They are expensive to install; the laying of standard-gauge track involves considerable disruption; and there are intrusive overhead wires and gantries. The ideal solution would be a lightweight tram which does not need a continuous power source.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity



In the third of our series on Butlin's Somerset World, a swimmer experiences the water feature known as the 'Space Bowl'. Like all photographs published in *The Independent*, this can be purchased by calling Readers' Photographs on 0171-293 2534 (subject to availability)

John Voos

Battery technology has not kept pace with expectations. An emergent technology which offers real hope is currently being demonstrated along the waterfront at Bristol. The Bristol Electric Railbus is propelled by a flywheel.

Enormous amounts of energy can be stored in flywheels. Even at the present state of the technology it uses only 34 per cent of the energy needed by a bus to carry a given number of passengers. However, space technology is providing the thrust to the development of the flywheel because of its high kinetic energy storage capacity, so we can expect significant improvements. Currently, there are carbon fibre flywheels capable of reaching 60,000 revolutions per minute which take six weeks to come to a stop! A revolutionary design from the USA claims 600,000 rpm.

The flywheel-powered light railbus is potentially an ideal vehicle for city centre transport. By running on rails it has only a quarter of the rolling friction of a bus on rubber tyres. It takes 30 seconds for the flywheel to be brought up to speed at each stop. A 50-person railbus is currently under development.

If the Crown Estate in London is considering trams for Regent Street, this would be an efficient option employing a lightweight narrow-gauge track which could be laid much more rapidly and cheaply than the normal standard gauge carrying heavy vehicles. Professor PETER F SMITH
Chairman, Sustainable Futures Committee
Royal Institute of British Architects
London W1

Sir: If, under John Prescott's proposals, commuters are to be charged large sums of money for continuing to use their cars, there may well be fewer cars clogging our roads. The income generated from those who continue to drive

to work will be invested by local authorities to improve transportation and so on.

All this means less fuel being poured into cars, which in turn means less tax revenue collected for the Government. Shall Gordon Brown, as a result of all of this, have to raise direct taxes in order to keep his "prudent" fiscal policies in line for the year 2002? Professor F A HIBBERT
Droghda, Hampshire

Sir: I live in a small country village and would be housebound without a car. If a motor manufacturer developed a reliable, reasonably priced electric car, and if councils would provide power points for recharging, I and many of my fellow country-dwellers would leap at the chance to buy one.

We can send men to the moon but we can't seem to develop a practical battery to charge a car. I don't believe it. ANNE WOOSTER
Little Gaddesden, Hertfordshire

Sir: Why is the only alternative to the school run being proposed in the media that of children walking to school on their own?

Of course this could be dangerous. Whatever happened to parents walking with their children to school? Over the last 14 years I have spent 40 minutes of quality time with my children most days, enjoying the walk to and from school. Yes, it was along a busy road, and yes, it was a pain in the weather, but still a special time which would have been lost in a car ride.

Come on parents. Stop being wimps. Get walking. HELEN ASTIN
Bedford

A better BBC

Sir: The headline to Janine Gibson's article ("BBC admits BBC must do better", 16 July) and the captions to the three accompanying pictures give a totally misleading view of the BBC's considerable programme-making achievements in 1997/98.

In the BBC's annual report the governors' assessment was of a BBC which is "creatively strong, innovative and efficient". It is a pity that you told your readers only about the critical section of that assessment. As I said in my opening remarks, whether judged by the number of awards or by the size and loyalty of the audience it was an exceptional programme year.

Creatively and culturally the BBC is strong. Certainly there is room for improvement; we will not rest on our laurels. But the improvements we seek are specific and should be seen against a background of real success. It is a question simply of whether the good can be made better.

Sir CHRISTOPHER BLAND
Chairman, BBC
London W1

Sir: There are moves afoot to ban green-top milk because it may be dangerous (report, 20 July).

From the figures given for contamination in this untreated milk, one would expect that the customer base must be dying faster than new customers can be found. I should think all the Government has to do is wait, and there'll be nobody left to buy it.

Is it possible that the customers for this milk become immune to the impurities? "Everybody eats a peck of dirt before they die," as my grandfather used to say. JOHN HALL
Dawley, Shropshire

IN BRIEF

Sir: Stephen Pollard's "The truth about race and crime" (10 July) undermines itself in the first paragraph: "You are walking home late at night... As you look ahead you notice two young men... As you get nearer you notice they are black... adrenaline pumps... cross the road... etc. etc."

This assumes that all readers of "The Independent" are white. Is this assumption not part of what black people have been going on about for years, namely that they are not portrayed as a part of "normal" mainstream society? ROBERT DORAN
London SW8

Sir: Your report on "forced Muslim marriages" (20 July) is grossly selective. I am a Muslim from Pakistan and I had an "arranged marriage" to a fellow Pakistani Muslim boy resident in this country. The happiness in my marriage is true of thousands who experienced the same process.

You distort a very successful system by speaking of "the misery of hundreds of young Muslim women". Rather, I pity the hundreds of thousands of non-Muslim women in this country who can only dream of the security a good Muslim husband and father to their children. SOFIA AHMED
Ilford, Essex

The world's most important and/or most boring subject

ALONG, long time ago I was watching a TV programme on which Dennis Potter, René Cutforth and Colin Wilson were talking about life, from which, come to think of it, two of them have already departed. All three were distinguished. René Cutforth was the best radio broadcaster I have ever heard. Dennis Potter was Dennis Potter, a crazy, mixed-up, brilliant dramatist, and Colin Wilson was the man who kept our interest in the paranormal going single-handed until *The X Files* and *Porter* arrived to help take the strain and make the world safe for incredulity.

But being distinguished doesn't make you like-minded, and there came a moment in the discussion which I shall always remember for the electrifying way in which it divided the participants. Either Wil-

son or Cutforth said he had no time for politics, and the other one, either Cutforth or Wilson, said he couldn't agree more. Dreary, waste of time, pointless, fruitless, etc. etc.

But Dennis Potter was beside himself. "You're so wrong!" he said. "Politics is life! Everything is political! Everything we do is political in some way or another, every choice we make, every action we take! To deny politics is to deny life!"

Wilson and Cutforth glanced at each other, as if in the presence of a relative who had just dropped all his food down his front, and after a few moments more of non-communication, the conversation passed on to more harmonious fields. Probably none of them remembered the moment, but it stuck with me for a long time, because of Potter's passion and the fervent

apathy of the other two. Trouble was, I could see what both sides were driving at. In a way, everything is political. Assuming you have some vision of how you would like society to be, then everything you do can be measured against that vision. On the other hand, Wilson and Cutforth were dead right. Politics is the most boring thing in the world. So who was right?

I can't remember when it was that I suddenly realised the truth, but I did finally tumble to the fact that what Potter meant by politics and what the other two meant were quite different things. Potter was using the word "politics" in a rather Continental, intellectual sort of way, meaning anything to do with progress, the improvement of the world, the reorganisation of human society, etc.



MILES KINGTON

Dennis Potter was beside himself. 'You're so wrong!' he said. 'Politics is life!'

The other two meant something much more small-minded. They meant party politics, all the games

we play at elections and between elections, in and out of Parliament. It's a limited use of the word "politics". Unfortunately, it's the way most of us in Britain use it. When someone is described as being "politically motivated", no one is suggesting he's trying to improve the world - he is being accused of trying to gain party political advantage for his side. "Playing politics", "making political appointments", all these assume that politics is just about the parliamentary soap opera.

There's a very good example of this in the current *Radio Times*, when Andrew Duncan asks Anna Ford in an interview whether she still supports Labour, and she replies doubtfully (his choice of adverb): "Yes - in that I believe we have inequalities because of our class system which people deny still

exists. And I don't like the pretence that women have equality, because they don't..."

What is interesting here is that Duncan asks a question about party politics, and Anna Ford answers it as if she were being asked a question about real politics, the result being that she sounds as though she is not answering the question at all.

But then nobody with any sense would want to answer the usual media questions about politics, which are always about party politics - who's to blame? should he be fired? did he mislead Parliament? where will the money come from? who is responsible for the leak? how will this affect the party's poll ratings? - and never about real politics - is it a good idea? is it right for Britain? will it make the world a better place?

What is ME?

Sir: So, the Government now acknowledges chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) as an entity, but still does not accept ME ("Calman urges doctors to take ME seriously", 17 July). The two terms are not synonymous, as widely thought, and this confusion is the key reason why psychiatric factors are still thought by some to be the main cause.

For years, a figure of about 1.5 per cent of the population having ME has been supported by several charities. Yet at almost 10 times higher, a figure of up to 2.6 per cent was put forward in 1996 by the Royal College of Psychiatrists, along with an insistence to drop the name ME and call it CFS - an umbrella term swallowing up the organic ME amongst psychiatric illnesses.

When focusing just on the 0.3 per cent actually having ME, laboratory tests do find physical abnormalities in patients, including immune imbalances, links to pesticides, evidence of virus DNA and muscle abnormalities.

I hope the new panel will give some thought to differentiating ME from CFS, or ME sufferers may be little better off than before. Dr JOHN BREWARD
Edinburgh

Sir: I very much welcome the new working group on ME set up by the retiring Chief Medical Officer, Sir Kenneth Calman. My one concern is that it might have a psychiatric bias.

It is to be hoped that it will concentrate on developing an effective laboratory test for more rapid diagnosis of ME patients, now that, amongst other findings, two different enzyme abnormalities have been discovered in ME patients. The current diagnosis test, that the patient must have been ill for a minimum of six months, was laid down by psychiatrists.

With faster diagnosis, many sufferers would never become so ill, since resting in the early stages of the illness is now known to be one of the best ways of reducing the likelihood of it becoming a lifelong condition - only 20 per cent of ME sufferers fully recover.

The brief of the new working group mentioned "management" as its focus. I hope this does not just mean an increase in the use of inappropriate psychological therapies currently popular with those doctors who won't distinguish ME from psychological fatigue illnesses.

Having said this, the new ME working group is definitely a step forward. Thank you, Sir Kenneth - may you have a pleasant retirement. VERONICA JONES
Cleaveland, Gloucestershire

Orange rights

Sir: C Padley's letter (16 July) is an accurate summary of the Protestant viewpoint, but not a justification of the Orangemen's behaviour. It takes no account of the Catholic viewpoint.

Naturally the Protestants feel threatened by being a minority in a hypothetical United Ireland, but similarly Catholics feel threatened by being a minority in the reality of the present Northern Ireland. It is essential that both groups are mindful of the fears of each other. In these circumstances the Orangemen's marches are akin to putting a match to a powder keg.

It is a tragedy that successive generations continue to be brought up in segregated schools. Segregation breeds distrust and fear, which leads to hate, to violence, to the indiscriminate murder of innocents.

Of course the Orangemen have a right to indulge in ceremonies that are not unlawful. But different rights often conflict and there is no greater right than the right to live. Responsible adult behaviour sometimes requires that one refrains from exercising one's rights for the common good. E W HUGHES
Earley, Berkshire

Next time you hear, watch or read a political interview, ignore all the questions and answers which are about party politics, and weigh the rest. I think you will find you have been short-changed. I also think you will find yourself tempted in future to avoid all encounters between interviewers and politicians, both of whom are playing the same dreary game.

Party politics was perfectly summed up long ago by H. H. Mencklen when he said that democracy was a system in which both sides tried to convince the electorate that the other side was unfit to rule the country - and both sides were commonly right. Or, to put it another way and bring it up to date, an opposition is only a government which has not yet had the chance to discredit itself.

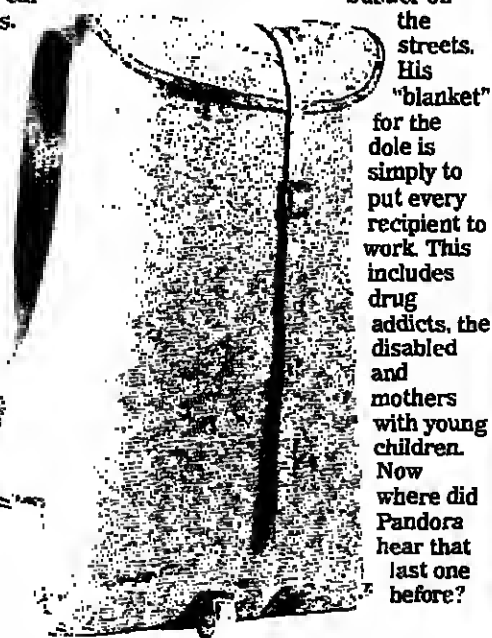
PANDORA

TAXPAYERS - AND Chancellor Gordon Brown - can breathe a sigh of relief as the British Embassy in Washington is not going to be given a £1m face-lift after all. The story was first reported in *The Sunday Times* at the end of June. Lady Catherine Meyer, wife of Sir Christopher Meyer, the current Ambassador and John Major's former press secretary, told the paper, "The Foreign Office has agreed that the whole place needs an overhaul." Last week, in another newspaper, Lady Meyer was particularly scathing about the "Trusthouse Forte style" décor in some of the guest rooms.

Unfortunately for her and for Mulberry, one of the interior designers she'd earmarked for the project, the "agreed" overhaul only extends to rewiring the building. "There never was going to be any overhaul," Embassy spokesman Anthony Cary told Pandora yesterday. "It was a story exaggerated from a remark by Lady Meyer, all built on nothing." Has anyone told this to Lady Meyer?

IT'S TIME to take the gloves off. Yesterday's "Right of Reply" in this newspaper by Lewis Grundy, executive of leading rucksack manufacturer Karrimor (whose original model is pictured below), was a slap in the face to every rucksack victim, every Underground passenger, every civilised man and woman in this country. Where in Grundy's hymn to rucksacks was the word "courtesy" to be found? Where was the manufacturer's warning: "Rucksacks can be hazardous in public. Always carry them by hand in a crowd"? No, the Grundy line is that rucksacks are now "stylish" and, predictably, his company wants more and more people to carry them.

We've seen this kind of corporate arrogance before - from the tobacco industry, the pharmaceutical fat cats, even the car manufacturers. The consumers' response in these cases was to go to the courts. The Anti-Rucksack On The Tube Campaign urges all rucksack victims to seek legal redress, not just against individual luggage louts, but against the manufacturers.



of these potentially hazardous articles.

THE CAMPAIGN spoke yesterday with Liz Lloyd of the Youth Hostel Association. Unlike the Grundys of this world, Ms. Lloyd twigged immediately what is at stake here. "It all comes down to the fact that people who are considerate will act in a considerate manner," she told Pandora. "People who are pig ignorant will act pig ignorant." Despite her natural loyalty to young rucksack-lugging hostellers, did she have sympathy for people who have been bashed on the Tube? "Of course, I'm one of those people. I console myself that at least they might be staying at youth hostels."

"THE POLICE are swamped, even though they are helped by the huge squads of private police, resplendent in their blue-and-red uniforms - hated since two (private) officers fired at rioters protesting at VAT on food." This Orwellian fantasy comes from *The Mirror's* "Life in 2002 after another five years of Tory rule", published before the last election. But it could be a warning to Home Secretary Jack Straw, who last week welcomed the possibility of employing private security guards, complete with their own uniforms and badges, to support the police.

ON MONDAY Pandora reported on Mayor Giuliani's efforts to force New York's topless dancers into bikini tops and T-shirts. Yesterday the crusading mayor announced his plans "to end welfare by the end of this century - completely." His solution is rather predictable and predictably vague: "From the welfare capital of America, we will become the work capital of America." Where the jobs are coming from is hazy, but Giuliani is a great believer in the "blanket" approach to social problems. He got tough on crime by arresting every jaywalker and squeegee

bustler on the streets. His "blanket" for the dole is simply to put every recipient to work. This includes drug addicts, the disabled and mothers with young children. Now where did Pandora hear that last one before?

What about the century's worst books?



JOHN SUTHERLAND

There is a category of bestsellers which are so bad they are fun to dig up

news of the process becomes public, civil war threatens. Mary, meanwhile, has a good time at petting parties.

In second place, I am torn between a novel about a boring bird who thinks he is Jesus Christ and a man who makes his living muttering sweet-nothings to horses. Richard Bach's *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* (1973) edges out our

very own *The Horse Whisperer*.

For number three, an old favourite, Sax Rohmer's *The Mystery of Fu Manchu* (1913). I relish it for the villain's exotic means of disposing of his victims. Not for him the banal knife, poison, or bullet. His favourite technique is the fungus cellar where poisonous mushrooms grow at incredible speed to kill their captives agonisingly.

As an example of political incorrectness, I select Erskine Caldwell's 1932 sex shocker *Tobacco Road*, set in an American south of the fevered imagination. A patriarch sharecropper, Jeeter Lester, marries his wife Ada when she is 11 and sires 17 children before her (bowlegged) 30th birthday. Still living in the family shack is bareheaded and nymphomaniac Ellie Mae and young Dude, who raises hell with a preacher, Bessie Rice, twice his age with no bones in her nose.

James Hilton's *Lost Horizon* (1933) topped the American best-seller lists for two years. It is notable for having given a name (Shangri-La) to more boats, hangarons and beach butts than any other novel of the century.

Edna Ferber penned a string of bestsellers of which the most enduring are *Show Boat* (1926) and *Giant* (1952). I choose, as number six in the best-worst list, So Big, her top-selling novel of 1924. I particularly admire the heroine's line, in declining the proposal of a hopeful suitor: "You're all smooth, I like 'em bumpy."

Michael Arden's *The Green Hat* gets in at number seven for the heroine's name (Iris Storm), her green hat, her yellow Hispano-Suiza, and her kisses that smell "filmy of petrol and cigarettes and a scent whose name I shall never now know".

Everyone knows *Cold Comfort Farm* and Aunt Ida's "something nasty in the woodshed". Few nowadays have read the novel on which Stella Gibbons based her spoof. Mary Webb's *Precious Bane* became a bestseller in 1934, after Stanley Baldwin took to puffing it in his speeches. Webb's heroine, Prue Sarn, is horribly disfigured and has encountered many nasty things in many woodsheds. But, by a hilariously improbable series of events, she ends up riding off into the sunset with her true love Kester. It is Britain's greatest romance of the soil.

For the New Age Nonsense category, I was tempted by *The Celestine Prophecy*, but settled instead for an old favourite, Ruth Beebe Hill's 1979 bestseller, *Honda Yō*. It charts the fortunes of a band of Teton Sioux over the centuries. Beebe lived with the Sioux for decades and translated the book into their language before publication.

At number ten, I nominate Mickey Spillane's 1947 pulp classic and all-time bestseller, *I, the Jury*. Who can forget the ending in which Mike Hammer wastes the beautiful (but deadly) Charlotte Manning? "She was what you would expect to find in a painting if each of the great artists added their own special technique to produce a masterpiece." (Who says Spillane ain't got class?) She may be beautiful, but she shot Mike's buddy in the belly with a dum-dum bullet and she's gotta go the same way.

"How could you?" she gasped. I had only a moment before talking to a corpse, but I got it in. It was easy, I said. Beat that.

The author is professor of English at University College, London.

My experience tells me that road pricing won't work



KEN LIVINGSTONE

I have never learnt to drive, but I do not underestimate people's love-affair with the car

them to live with short-term unpopularity and lashings of criticism.

The Government can take heart from my own experience when, back in 1981, Labour won control of the Greater London Council, which was committed to cutting fares in order to get people out of their cars and back on to public transport. In the election, we had been quite honest and clear in saying that we would increase domestic rates by up to £1 per week per household in order to pay for the cut in London Transport fares.

Although we won the election on this manifesto, when Thames Television commissioned an audience selection telephone opinion poll in the days just before the council met to vote on this policy, we found that there was overwhelming public opposition to our plans. When asked "should the GLC increase rates in order to cut London Transport fares?" 80 per cent of Londoners replied in the negative and only 20 per cent supported our scheme. Fortunately we had sufficient

commitment on our back benches to press ahead without public support, because within two months of the fares cut coming into operation opinion polls found that two-thirds of Londoners now thought we had been right to cut the fares. Of course, if we had been as fearful of opinion polls and as much in awe of focus groups as the modern Labour Party, we most probably would never have cut the fares.

The statistician George Stern recently conducted a detailed survey of passenger usage on London Transport between 1959 and 1986. His figures show that between our fares cut and the abolition of the GLC, fares were reduced by 35 per cent. This generated a 70 per cent increase in passenger miles, with a resulting increase in fares revenue of 11 per cent.

The real lesson for John Prescott from the GLC experience is that it pays to invest in public transport. In the end, one person in 20 left his or her car at home and switched to public transport, thus easing congestion as well as reducing accident and pollution figures. Some City firms even abolished their car mileage allowance and gave their staff travel passes instead.

People's reactions are never going to be wholly rational when the state intervenes to change their way of life. But then, it is not rational for hundreds of thousands of parents to drive their parents to school because they fear that their children may be injured in a car accident (no doubt driven by another child-ferrying parent). Fifty per cent of the children who live on heavily trafficked roads have asthma. Breathing the atmosphere in a congested city such as London doubles your chance of dying of lung cancer - the same odds as if you were to smoke forty cigarettes a day.



Isn't it time for us all to get on our bikes? Jeff Hindleley

Far from being the great liberator, the car has become a tyranny that makes us prisoners in our own cities. As people switch to car usage, public transport is systematically cut back until we no longer have the choice of car versus public transport. As those who are dependent on public transport become a progressively smaller and poorer section of society, their ability to influence government fades, while the power of the car lobby grows, and we reach the bizarre situation where it is cheaper to drive your car over long distances than it is to take the train.

The only way to break out of this spiral of decline, as the GLC demonstrated, is to spend money initially in order to improve the public transport options in terms of both reliability and cost. Then as people make their personal choice it becomes possible to look into an ascending spiral of improving public transport.

This is the main worry about John Prescott's White Paper. The extra funding for public transport is only going to come about once leg-

islative time has been found to introduce charges on congestion and work-place car parks. Given that this legislation is not programmed for the next session, the earliest point these measures could become law is in the autumn of 2000. Can we really continue choking ourselves to death until then?

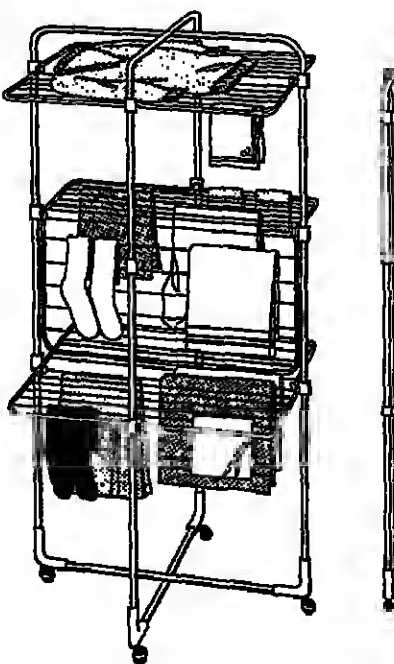
Unless John Prescott can persuade Gordon Brown to release the resources to buy the new buses and rolling stock as well as to provide the increased subsidy to allow for a fares cut, there is no prospect of rapid improvement. Why on earth should somebody travel a mile on London's Underground when it costs more than it does to travel a mile on Concorde?

Unfortunately, because it is local councils that are going to be responsible for enacting the new transport strategy (or not, as the case may be), ministers may think they will be able to get to the other side of the next election before the critics start homing in on the Government. In your dreams, John, in your dreams.

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Prison is no place for teenage girls

A PRINCIPAL aim of the Howard League for Penal Reform, in its campaign regarding the treatment of teenage girls by the criminal justice system, remains an end to the placement of the under-18s in any Prison Service establishment.

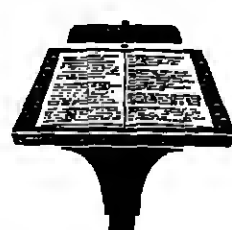
Those girls who genuinely require a custodial environment should be held in local authority secure accommodation units. Prisons will always be the wrong place for teenage girls. The ethos of the Prison Service, the availability of resources and the fact that girls in prison will only ever make up a minute fraction of the total prison population, mean that the Prison Service will never be able to provide a suitable environment or a suitably tailored regime for what are very vulnerable young women.

We have stressed, and the Chief Inspector of Prisons has stressed, the immense importance of staff being suited and committed to working with adolescents. At the best of times adolescents are difficult, volatile, chaotic, challenging - requiring a great deal of understanding,

patience and ingenuity. But when you have teenagers who have also been abused, neglected or bereaved, with drug and alcohol problems, as many of these young women have, then you have a potential powder keg. To deal with that, it is essential to have experienced, committed and well trained staff and a system which is flexible, providing the possibility of applying various responses in dealing with difficult behaviour. Untrained and unsupported staff can do a great deal of damage.

Prison officers are trained first and foremost on how to be custody officers. The priority is to know and apply the rules and procedures that are necessary in large institutions. The only training available in how to deal with the behaviour of damaged teenagers is the three-day course designed by the Trust for the Study of Adolescence. An excellent training pack - though it is really just an introduction. But for the Prison Service it is the only training available.

And the system of prison rules and adjudications is simply too rigid for dealing with teenagers. Typical adol-



PODIUM

FRAN RUSSELL
From a speech by the assistant director of the Howard League to a conference on young women and prisons

escent behaviour causes a ton of bricks to rain down upon the young person. For example, telling an officer to "eff off", or playing a radio too loudly, means being brought before a Governor for adjudication - a semi-judicial procedure where official language is used, such as asking the girl "Do you have anything to say in mitigation?"

The approach is all about enforcing conformity through

punishment, rather than bringing about good behaviour via development of the young woman.

Of further concern to the Howard League is the danger of increased bullying when so many teenagers are held together, with so few staff to take care of them.

In any case, it was the stark environment and culture of an adult prison that we felt to be most inappropriate for the under-18s, rather than the individual women.

Of most concern was the fact that this is an environment with extremely high levels of anxiety and emotional disturbance, where women mutilate themselves on a large scale, where suicide attempts are frequent and where drugs of every kind are easily available. It is a place where, if there is a staff shortage, women are simply locked-up in their cells for long hours. The under-18s will not be cocooned from that environment in the new units.

It is also an environment where teenage behaviour is largely not understood or tolerated by staff or the system, but is punished.

Even with large-scale, in-

depth training it will be hard to alter that attitude and that approach to young people.

So where do we go from here?

A major problem for all of us, not least the Government, is the continuing rise in the number of girls being given custodial sentences. The numbers have gone up by a third in the past year alone.

Of course, we need more alternative programmes. And we welcome the two new non-custodial sentences for young people in the Crime and Disorder Bill.

But we also need a political lead from the Government to start to dampen down the hype around girls' offending and the clamour for ever more punitive sentences. There has been little from the Government on that so far, though I was pleased to hear Jack Straw on the radio promoting a community programme for young offenders. I hope we will see a lot more of that, because the only chance of getting back to the more sensible, pre-Michael Howard days is if the Government gives a strong political lead.

Is 10 years enough for Paddy?



DAVID STEEL

I can confirm that Ashdown's strategy of 'constructive opposition' is unpopular in the party.

TONIGHT IN the Waldorf hotel, Liberal Democrats are holding a dinner to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the election of Paddy Ashdown as our leader. There is much to celebrate.

Ten years ago we were on our uppers. Instead of a clean and swift process learning from our mistakes, and merging the Liberal Party and the newer Social Democratic Party into one, the Liberal Party conference appointed a diffuse negotiating team of 18 members. David Owen, the SDP leader, resigned, refusing to accept the vote of his conference to merge. The result was almost an entire year of tortuous internal navel-gazing and squabbling which dissipated most of the public goodwill built up over the previous seven years. Our opinion poll ratings disappeared like snow off a dyke. In spite of the well intentioned but mistaken pleas of MP colleagues that I should assume the leadership of the new united party, I recognised the time had come to quit. Our poll ratings continued downwards to hit the same low point of 5-6% which we had last reached when I took over from Jeremy Thorpe in 1976.

It was not an auspicious start for Paddy Ashdown as the new leader. The middle over our name - "Social & Liberal Democrats", "SLD", "Salads", "Democrats" - took more than a further year to sort out as "Liberal Democrats". To have built up a fighting force which today has seen 46 MPs elected - the largest third force since 1935 - with over 5000 councillors controlling 45 councils, is very substantially due to Paddy Ashdown's persistent leadership. The new party has a sounder and more manageable constitution. No more back-of-the-envelope policy resolution and amendments. Instead, we have policy and executive committees meeting during the week at Westminster.

Paddy took full advantage of this with his own style of "hands on" control of the party machine, to which the party readily responded. Gone are the heady days of 51% opinion polls and 25% vote in the 1993 election, and in their place are these more tangible gains.

The first point to note about Paddy Ashdown is that he works



Paddy Ashdown and the Liberal Democrats celebrate 10 years of his leadership tonight - a leadership 'that is not yet complete', according to David Steel

incredibly hard. Colleagues are used to being roused from their beds by phone calls from the leader who is at his desk around seven o'clock in the morning. The second is that he is one of the few politicians who is genuinely abreast of the new technologies.

While some wouldn't know a CD-ROM or a modem if they found them in their soup and many tap but gingerly at keyboards, Paddy has for years talked of mega-bytes and information super highways as though weaned on them. He is always keen to acquire the latest piece of miniaturised equipment.

These two characteristics together mean that his output is prodigious. I remember once calling during a recess at his cottage near Yeovil and being given coffee by the delightful Jane while he took 10 minutes to tear himself away from his computer and come downstairs to see me.

Of course, there is a downside to all this. He works too hard and as a result becomes tired and impatient. He then operates on a short fuse, resulting in rather too high a turnover of staff than is sensible in his private office, and sometimes bruised egos among colleagues. His speeches - redolent of computer

speech - contain no cadences, no literary allusions and sometimes no discernible structure.

What they do contain is meat. His travels round Britain, living with all manner of people, have been sneered at as gimmicky, but are nothing of the kind. They give real depth of experience to his thinking.

Already, unlike so many politicians, he has a rich background and experience of service in special forces, in the foreign office, in industry and of unemployment. He has made the previous Tory stronghold of Yeovil his own and has shown real leadership in facing down the anti-paedophile vigilantes seeking to persecute those who have already paid the price of their criminal activities. His personal determination and knowledge on the Bosnian questions have been deservedly questioned.

Not especially sociable in the Commons, he has to be enticed well away from his office to relax. A month or two ago, when I had taken him out to dinner at a favourite restaurant where we had a lively and amusing - though I hope constructive - evening together, he wrote me a note of thanks complaining that we had drunk too much! Jane claims that

he is altogether a different person when they get away to their cottage in France - something the party does not allow too often - and he enjoys manual work in both the garden and the home as well as the fruits of the surrounding vineyards. Colleagues with whom he has gone skiing describe his love of mixing it on the ski slopes with their children and now his own grandson.

But what of the party now under his leadership? His strategy of "constructive opposition" is not popular in the party. My own recent experience in canvassing votes internally for others in the European candidacies and for myself in the Scottish one confirms that. Our own members - let alone the public - do not fully appreciate the distinction between co-operating with the Labour government on constitutional issues specifically, and also getting close to and being identified with the Labour Party in general.

Yet Paddy's strategy is wholly correct. It has already brought us the Scottish and Welsh parliaments, proportional representation for the European elections, the incorporation of the European convention on human rights into domestic law, with the promise to

come next year of a referendum on electoral reform at Westminster, reform of the House of Lords, and a Freedom of Information Act.

These have all been the subject of worthy conference resolution and manifesto commitments in Liberal and SDP enclaves for years and even decades. They are now actually happening, and one cannot help feeling that there have always been those in our ranks who would rather remain untainted with responsibility, instead preferring the process of continually polishing abstract and unfulfilled resolutions.

The party certainly doesn't wish to see the Blair/Ashdown axis becoming entrenched. Coalition this side of a PR general election is out of the question. That is not just the view of the MPs generally, it is especially strongly felt in Scotland where the party wishes no identification either with the monopolistic Labour Party nor the consistently maladrofit utterances on the Scottish dimension of Tony Blair himself.

Yet that leaves Paddy with plenty of room for manoeuvre. A full scale policy review has been carried out under his direct chairmanship. The party conference at Brighton will have its hands full on the

non-constitutional proposals - service delivery agreement to speed up government departments; overhauling the tax system to take 10 million people out of income tax altogether; doubling child benefit for under 5s; neighbourhood trusts to drive up standards in schools; maximum class sizes of 25 and using revenue from fines to fight the crime wave. Paddy's overall thrust is to demand a government which actually does less by enabling other bodies to do more - an update of the classic Liberal agenda.

When I had a dinner to celebrate my 10 years as leader, the mischievous but greatly missed David Penhaligon arranged for me to be presented with a framed photostat of a newspaper front page from the day that Jo Grimond had resigned in 1966. "Ten years is enough for any Liberal leader", screamed the headline. I did not take the hint, for there was work to be completed which took another two years. While there is no lack of aspirants for the Liberal Democrat throne, there will certainly be no such kind of presentation tonight. Paddy has had a magnificent ten years, and without a doubt his task is not yet complete.

RIGHT OF REPLY

AKBAR DAD KHAN

A member of the executive committee of the Luton Central Mosque responds to our coverage of arranged marriages

"ARRANGED MARRIAGE" is the most misunderstood phrase in British society. Whether this is intentional - a convenient tool to attack Asian-Muslim culture from the Indian subcontinent - or whether the ignorance is genuine, is a matter of opinion. I personally feel that it is a mixture of both.

Arranged marriages are historically part of Asian and, to some extent, African culture, and this culture is predominantly Muslim. Both of the recent articles in *The Independent* on the subject were intrusive and non-representative, and were an attack on Kashmiri-Islamic culture and tradition.

The Independent went beyond reason in giving the issue the prominence it did. The newspaper has not exercised a sense of fair play and even-handedness. Just because society in general is not prepared to exercise a sense of commitment and self-discipline and give respect to the institution of marriage, let us not set out to destroy the cultural life of a community that is desperately trying to save its culture, in very difficult circumstances.

In so-called "arranged marriages" in general, nothing is bartered - despite what may be commonly understood in the West. The common practice is that boys and girls are introduced and assisted to reach a decision about their future partners.

There must be around 200 such young couples living in Luton who are happy with their married lives. To pick out the case of one girl and publicise it in this way is a great insult to Luton, and I strongly object to such behaviour.

Those involved in Asian marriages are well matched up, and the marriages are well thought out and planned. These marriages have family support in the shape of advice, accessibility and an element of blood relationship, thus they have a greater chance of success than other marriages.

Brown under the microscope

WE HAVE had the television documentary, the biography and now an account of Gordon Brown's first year, each narrative accompanied by a flurry of frenzied stories. *The Sunday Times*, which bought the serial rights in this case, was unlucky. The newspaper could only come up with overhyped allegations that the Chancellor's adviser Ed Balls had leaked Budget information. The story fitted neatly into the "cronygate" mood, but was never going to make waves.

Unlike Paul Routledge's biography in January, this latest addition to the Brown oeuvre will not itself become part of the early history of this Government.

Instead, it is a better book - and one that gives a much more revealing picture of Brown and his small entourage. Reading it, I was reminded of Warren Beatty's observation in the fly-on-the-wall documentary about his then girlfriend, Madonna. "Can you only exist when there's a camera on you or somebody's writing about you?", he asks.

The sometimes shy and studious Gordon Brown has become the unlikely Madonna of British politics. A quiet, consoling chat with his old rival Robin Cook is fed to the newspapers; a pre-Budget meal with his girlfriend becomes a photo-opportunity; a nephew's birthday party is managed for the papers. In this book, his "private" holiday in Cape Cod last summer merits an entire chapter.

The chapter succeeds in conveying Brown's awkward charisma. Millionaires visit, and are forced to sleep on the floor. Brown is bewildered by the practicalities of a barbecue held with his extended family. He plays tennis in odd socks. What he really wants to do is spend time reading books on American economic policy. His girlfriend, Sarah Macaulay, concludes that the holiday brought them



WEDNESDAY BOOK

GORDON BROWN: THE FIRST YEAR IN POWER
BY HUGH PYM AND NICK KOCHAN
BLOOMSBURY, £16.99

"closer", although they had been together for a long time before then and are still not engaged a year on. Throughout the book, the impression is given - and at one point explicitly stated - that Sarah must compete for Brown's spare time with Ed Balls and his press officer, Charlie Whelan.

But a whole chapter on a summer holiday? This is a problem for the instant biographies that have become a phenomenon unique to this Government. The Government has had too many premature chroniclers. After only one year in power, much padding is required. In this case, it includes a long anecdote about how Alastair

Darling flew from Scotland to be appointed Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and long descriptions of political journalists which will be of no interest to anyone but the journalists themselves.

How appropriate, in such an incestuous environment, that one of the central chapters deals with the uproar caused by Routledge's previous book on Brown. Pym and Kochan are right. Everybody, from Tony Blair down to political correspondents, overreacted to the book. There was virtually nothing new about Brown's sense of disappointment when Blair became leader. Its significance was in show-



Is he the Madonna of British politics?

ing how little was required to set Blairite against Brownite.

Some commentators believe Europe will be the issue that fatally blows them apart. This is most unlikely. An insightful chapter here focuses on the cock-ups last autumn over the single currency, when it was announced that entry had been ruled out for this Parliament. The authors reveal that it was the europhile Brown who advocated this strategy and the slightly more sceptical Blair who had his doubts. The account strikes me as broadly correct, although the personal tension between the two men in the build-up to that decision is underplayed. The differences were over who was leaking what to whom, and tactics rather than policy. Both men assume that Britain will sign up to the single currency soon after the next election.

The only cause for a fatal parting of the ways would be if Blair disagreed with Brown's economic policy. With perfect timing, the book sets out in a fuller way than I have yet read Brown's radical instincts, and his passion

ate belief in equality and public services. It reminds us that, well before the election, he had decided to allocate more money for health and education, but could not say so in the perverse pre-election climate, when spending money implied a rise in income tax.

It is possible, as the book speculates, that Blair differs about the extent to which the state ought to help the individual. I doubt it. Blair himself identified education and health as the Government's priorities, knowing that money had to accompany reform. But we do not know for sure, because so much less has been written about Blair than about Brown. Unusually, it is the Chancellor who has been more extensively chronicled than his neighbour. So peripheral are Blair and his team here that Alastair Campbell's name is constantly misspelled. Anyone would think that Brown was behaving as if he were Prime Minister.

The reviewer is political editor of the *New Statesman*

STEVE RICHARDS

WEDNESDAY POEM

BIRTHING
BY JEAN 'BINTA' BREEZE

ah carry she cross water
ah carry she cross lan
ah carry she
wid all dignity
ah born she on a day
like balm
a day of potency
wen spirits warm
an cluster roun
an smelt of milk
like she

This poem comes from Jean 'Binta' Breeze's 1992 collection 'Spring Cleaning', which has just been reissued by Virago (£6.99)



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Sir James Lighthill

JAMES LIGHTHILL was acknowledged throughout the world as one of the great mathematical scientists of this century. He was the prototypical applied mathematician, immersing himself thoroughly in the essence and even the detail of every engineering, physical or biological problem he was seeking to illuminate with mathematical description, formulating a sequence of clear mathematical problems and attacking them with a formidable range of techniques completely mastered, or adapted to the particular need, or newly created for the purpose; and then finally returning to the original problem with understanding, predictions, and advice for action.

His published legacy, of six books and some 150 papers (most of them republished in four volumes in 1997 by Oxford University Press) show at every stage a well-nigh perfect correspondence between a clearly identified physical process or mechanism and its expression and description in mathematical terms. His papers or lectures often emphasised the physical aspects, and gave the mathematics almost as a throw-away for those who like everything formalised; but in fact his style of working was usually the reverse.

In one of his most celebrated works, his first paper on "Sound Generated Aerodynamically", by jet aircraft and the like, he developed the essential mathematical structure completely in two weeks, but felt that the users (aeroengine designers) would not be able to grasp the implications, and so he delayed submission of his manuscript for 18 months, in which time he worked backwards from the conclusions, isolating the meaning at each stage - and refining and simplifying the mathematics as he did so.

He was in no sense simply the deployer of existing mathematics against a rich range of practical problems. To be sure, his earliest papers on supersonic flight already showed brilliant mastery and exploitation of classical techniques. But much more powerful techniques were needed for problems such as those of how waves in fluids are generated and propagated, and for this Lighthill made great developments in the theory of Fourier analysis, generalised functions and asymptotics - all set out with elegance and economy, and full rigour, in a delightful 1958 book, *Introduction to Fourier Analysis and Generalised Functions*. Rather different ideas were needed for nonlinear problems, such as the propagation and focusing of sonic booms, and here Lighthill provided equally original and elegant new techniques, permanent and frequently used additions to the armoury.

Michael James Lighthill was born in Paris, in 1924, and excelled across the board at Winchester before going up to Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1941 for a two-year wartime BA. He worked on supersonic flight at the National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, for the rest of the Second

World War, publishing his first paper before he was 20. He then went as Senior Lecturer to Manchester University at the age of 22, before taking the Beyer Professorship of Applied Mathematics there, aged 26, in succession to Sydney Goldstein. In his 13 years at Manchester, 1946-59, Lighthill ran one of the most powerful and inventive fluid dynamics groups ever formed anywhere.

He had many PhD students, who often rose to considerable heights themselves. Indeed, there was a period in which no fewer than 17 of his Manchester students held Chairs in the UK and that at a time when the number of universities was no more than a third of its present number. Although prepared to share the credit on a paper with a colleague, Lighthill almost never allowed his name to appear as author on any paper written by a student. And he was, then and since, tireless in his support for young scientists of any

He explained to the magistrates how, as Lucasian Professor, being fully seized of his duty not to waste energy, he was compelled to desist from applying the brake on any downhill stretch of road

promise and for scientists working in disadvantaged circumstances.

During these Manchester years, Lighthill worked extensively on gas dynamics, including effects important at very high speed, in his studies of ionisation processes, and the diffraction of shock and blast waves. He also launched two major new fields in fluid mechanics. The first of these, "aeroacoustics", or "sound generated aerodynamically", was announced in a remarkable paper published by the Royal Society in 1952. Unusually, but significantly, that paper neither contains nor needs so much as a single reference to any prior work. This work has remained over nearly 50 years the progenitor of all subsequent work in the field, and has been cited in many thousands of later papers.

It had immediate implication for noise reduction in jet aeroplanes, motivating the trend begun later in the 1950s and still continuing, to engines with higher bypass ratio, greater diameter and lower exhaust

speed, as mandated by Lighthill's famous eighth power law for jet noise. Remarkably, the Lighthill theory was sufficiently versatile to be applied also to problems as diverse as the heating of the sun's corona and the noise heard under water due to breaking surface waves and splashing drops.

The second, "nonlinear acoustics", was initiated by a famous 100-page article written in 1956 in honour of the 70th birthday of another great mechanics scientist, Sir Geoffrey Taylor. This field is again represented now by many thousands of papers, and applications include kidney-stone-crushing lithotripsy machines and, with the same mathematics, flood waves in rivers and traffic flow on highways.

From Manchester, Lighthill went in 1959 to be Director of the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, where his leadership extended to the critical examination of every report emanating from RAE. The six years to 1964 saw him again in his element ("Wouldn't change it for anything!"), working on the aerodynamics of the slender delta wing for Concorde, on spacecraft, and on short-haul aircraft. He also worked with the Post Office in developing commercial use of television and communications satellites, while managing in unusual detail the work of the 8,000 RAE staff, of whom 1,400 were professional scientists and engineers. Towards the end of his RAE time he became dissatisfied with the support in national societies for applied mathematics, and founded the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications, of which he was the first President, in 1965-67.

From 1964 to 1969 Lighthill held a Royal Society research professorship at Imperial College, and here he began his great development of mathematical biofluid dynamics - the quantitative understanding of the flow of blood in mammalian cardiovascular systems, of air in the human airways, and of the flying of birds and insects and the swimming of fish. Mastery of the biology was, he insisted, the *sine qua non* for entry into this field. He revelled in lectures, not only in the articulation of all the Latin names, but in his ability to perform the appropriate gymnastics to illustrate certain flying characteristics - in particular the "clap and fling" mechanism employed by the tiny winged *encarsia formosa* to endow it with a lift coefficient far above that obtainable from the ordinary aerodynamics in which the component parts of the body do not break apart.

In 1969 he succeeded Paul Dirac, founder of much of quantum mechanics, in the Lucasian Professorship of Mathematics at Cambridge - though when he referred to "my predecessor in the Chair" one sensed he was thinking primarily of Newton. Here he taught indefatigably, and with enormous gusto, six days of the week at nine in the morning. He widened his range yet further with work on control systems; on active control of sound, or anti-



Lighthill was one of the greatest mathematicians of the century

Godfrey Argent

sound; more and more on waves; on oceanography and atmospheric dynamics, including monsoon prediction and propagation; and on biological mechanics at the microscopic level.

From 1979 to 1989 Lighthill was Provost of University College London, much engaged in fund-raising, in new developments in the college, particularly in the biology and biotechnology sides, and in dramatically improving the representation of women in senior posts. He still maintained his scientific work, with studies on the unpredictability of large systems, on wave energy extraction devices, and on features of the human auditory system. After retirement he took up chairmanship of the Special Committee on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and travelled and lectured world-wide.

His achievements were widely recognised - through election as FRS at the age of 29, through the award of 24 honorary doctorates,

through foreign membership of the most prestigious academies, through receipt of many medals and prizes, and through knighthood in 1971.

Stories about Lighthill are legion, and no amount of discounting for exaggeration makes them less amusing or less essentially accurate. It is well known that he was fined £1 for jumping from a train as it passed to his dismay without stopping through Crewe; and that on more than one occasion he successfully defended himself on charges of speedy driving, turning the spotlight of his presence, charm and authority on the magistrates as he explained how, as Lucasian Professor, he was fully seized both of the laws of mechanics and of his duty to society not to waste energy, the latter compelling him to desist from applying the brake on any downhill section of road.

He saw everything as a challenge to his brain, or to his physique, or to the co-ordination of the two. And if no challenge were obviously to hand

he would create one - mastering Portuguese in three weeks to the extent that he could give a (long) after-dinner speech in the language, for example. He listed his leisure interests as music and swimming, to which surely literature, poetry (especially Portuguese) and languages (French, German, Russian, Portuguese) should be added.

His swimming exploits were legendary - careful in their homework on tides and local currents, bold in their ignoring of everything else. On countless occasions he came home safely, against the odds. Last Saturday he almost completed a nine-hour swim round Sark. He was the first ever to do this, at the age of 49, against high winds and huge waves, before dying close to the shore.

D. G. Crighton

In 1965, my wife and I were invited to stay the weekend by Lord James of Rushmore, then Vice-Chancellor of the infant York University, writes Tam Dalyell. As Eric James, he

had been the legendary high master of Manchester Grammar School, and previously chemistry master at Winchester. "One of the supreme challenges and pleasures," he said, "which can befall a schoolmaster is to teach young boys who are already cleverer, and in some ways more knowledgeable than oneself."

The pupils he had in mind were Dick Syngé, later Nobel prizewinner, Christopher Longuet-Higgins, future Professor of Theoretical Chemistry at Cambridge, and the then inseparable friends Freeman Dyson, now a distinguished American-based physicist, and Michael - as he was called then - Lighthill.

Our hostess, Cordelia James, herself an Oxford First, recalled:

It was during the Second World War, and Eric and I would take the younger Winchester Collegians to Harvest Camp at the village hall. There I ruled the roost, and made a rota of boys to sweep up. Whenever it was their turn, these two small boys, Dyson and Lighthill, would measure squares and isosceles triangles to the last inch, so that they swept exactly the same floor space. And, when stocking putting up sheaves of wheat to dry, said one to another rebukingly, "Have you never seen a single crockiform basilica?"

Some months later, when I was his lunch guest after an official MPs' visit to RAE Farnborough, I told Lighthill about staying with the Jameses. Yes, he said, he deemed it a great good fortune that wartime teachers, many of whom were elderly, had stayed on at Winchester, while younger colleagues were at the war. He had been awarded a major scholarship in Mathematics to Trinity College, Cambridge, at the age of 15, and their concern had been his balanced progress, while doing nothing to quench his insatiable curiosity.

After lunch, 'out of Lighthill's hearing, I asked one of his colleagues, an experienced and distinguished aeronautical engineer over 50, how he liked having a director in his mid-thirties. Normally, he said, he and his colleagues would resent someone 20 years younger than themselves as their boss, but since they were good enough to recognise scientific genius, Lighthill was more than acceptable. "He confirms us as one of the greatest - if not the greatest - aeronautical research establishment in the world, the United States included," he said, and that is precisely what Lighthill did in the 1960s.

Michael James Lighthill, mathematician, born Paris 23 January 1924; Fellow, Trinity College, Cambridge 1945-49; Senior Lecturer in Maths, Manchester University 1946-50; Beyer Professor of Applied Mathematics 1950-59; FRS 1953; Director, RAE, Farnborough, 1958-64; FRAeS 1961; Royal Society Research Professor, Imperial College 1964-69; Lucasian Professor of Mathematics, Cambridge University 1969-79; KU 1971; Provost of University College London 1979-89; married 1945 Nancy Dumaresq (one son, four daughters); died Sark 17 July 1998.

Betty Marsden

WHAT IS the difference between an impersonator and an impressionist? Compiling a catalogue of entertainers in British cinema recently, I ran into the difficulty of how best to characterise particular acts. The difference in this case, I now realise, was Betty Marsden. While Florence Desmond spent her lifetime imitating persons who had attained film fame (Katharine Hepburn and her "I'm not afraid, why should I be afraid?", Greta Garbo and her "I want to be alone"), Betty Marsden, who could have adapted Lon Chaney's hilling as "The Girl With a Thousand Voices", never once imitated a known personality.

She gave impressions of types known to us all - the veteran actress Dame Cella Molestranger, the octogenarian Gaiety Girl Lady Beatrice Counterblast, the fashion-plate Daphne Whitehigh - and impressive they were. True, there was one character or perhaps caricature which came directly from a media star of the Fifties, and that was the extraordinary television cook Fanny Cradock, "The Bella Donna of the Baking Dish", is the exception that proves the rule. As a radio comedienne Betty Marsden was Queen of the Impressionists.

Beatrice Marsden was born in Liverpool in 1919. Her parents were too poor to raise her and at the age of six she was adopted by a Somerset music teacher, Betty Allen. Already an inborn talent to amuse was beginning to show, and her sister later recalled that at the age of seven little Betty was prophesying that one day her name would be up in lights outside a London theatre. Soon she was giving recitations at local Conservative clubs and at the grand old age of 11 was playing First Fairy in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Pavilion Theatre in Bath.

In 1930 she made her London

début at the Victoria Palace in a fairy play called *The Windmill Man*. It won her a scholarship to that famous training ground for talented juveniles, the Italia Conti Stage School, which five years later found her a part in *Closing at Sunrise* at the Royalty Theatre.

Was there a talent for comedy yet showing through the dramatic ambitions? Perhaps, for while she played in the serious morality play *Johnson Over Jordan* (1939) by J.B. Priestley, she also had a role in a Ivor Novello production prophetically entitled *Comedienne* (1938). Perhaps, comedy came to the fore during the Second World War when she did a number of tours for the armed forces with an Ensa company (and met her future husband, Dr Jimmy Muggoch, then an army doctor, on a troopship).

Meanwhile in 1938, still billed as

'I'd love to kiss and cuddle you hoo-hoo in a canoe-hoo-hoo'

Beatrice, she acted in her first film. This was a "quota quickie" called *Sky Raiders* which ran for under an hour. Marsden played "Miss Quarm". Between Ensa shows she appeared as Jean the pianist who accompanied the star Ann Todd while she sang "Santa Sent Me To You" in the Ealing Studios war epic *Ships With Wings* (1941). It would be 10 years before she made another film, and then it was a dramatised documentary, *The Undeafened* (1951).

Marsden's film career was, to be honest, no great shakes: a character role in *The Young Lovers* (1954) for Rank. A spot of comedy in Big-

Hearted Arthur Askey's hurlscue western *Ramsbottom Rides Again* (1956), a couple of *Corry Ons*, as Mala Hari in *Corry On Regardless* (1961) and as Harriet Potter in *Corry On Camping* (1969). Easily her best movie was *The Wild Affair* (1963), based on William Sansom's novel *The Last Hours of Sandra Lee*.

Her television career was perhaps more notable. Beginning with roles in *The Winslow Boy* (1949) and *Cranford* (1951), she played Rachel Warden in the Charles Dickens serial *The Pickwick Papers* (1952) a couple of *Armchair Theatres* (1965), and winding up in the Nineties with character roles in *Inspector Morse* (1990) and *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* (1994).

But it was during the Golden Age of radio that Betty Marsden found a permanent niche. Spotted by the BBC producer Jacques Brown in a sequence of top West End revues including *Airs on a Shoestring* (1958) and *On the Brighter Side* (1959) in which she supported the brilliant Scots impressionist/impersonator Stanley Baxter, Brown signed her for a new series he was working on. Brown was himself no mean comedy performer. Small wonder then that this new series should thrive evolve into a brilliant mixture of gags, puns, hurlscue, satire, and outrage.

Written by the well-established scriptwriter Eric Merryman in partnership with an ex-comedian turned apprentice writer, Barry Took, the first programme was broadcast on 1 July 1958. Instead of the contracted six shows it ran uninterrupted for 21 weeks. Announced as "a sort of radio show", it starred Mr Kenneth Horne "who prefers to remain anonymous". Marsden was the only female voice among a company of eccentric comedians, each of whom sported a variety of accents: Kenneth Williams, Hugh Paddick, Ron Moody and Stanley Unwin, he of the tangled tongue.

Series two, off the mark in 1959, replaced Moody and Unwin with Jon Pertwee's brother Bill and this would remain the permanent roster until the very end, not only of *Beyond Our Ken* but of its successor, *Round the Horne*. Merryman and Took remained in partnership for the first 40 shows, then Merryman continued alone for the next 50 or so.

After the last show (16 February 1964) Merryman departed, taking his title with him, and a "new" show was created by a returning Took and his new writing partner, the oddly eyed-balled Marty Feldman. Thus *Beyond Our Ken* became *Round the Horne*, cast and jokes much as before but with a new injection of ever-increasing *doubles*, often singles, *entendres*. The series died on 9 June 1968 when its star fell seriously ill.

Marsden was always the only woman in the shows, thanks to the many amusing accents and voices she created. They varied from the veteran theatricals Dame Cella Molestranger and her partner Binkie Huckleback (Hugh Paddick), who played Fiona and Charles, very long-term lovers in a series of brief encounters. Another pair were Lady Beatrice Counterblast (née Clissold) of Chattering Parva, where she held court "many many times" with her creaking butler Spasm (Kenneth Williams) whose main response was the dire warning, "We all be doomed!" There was Fanny Haddock, guesting in the weekly *Horneama* feature with cookery hints ("One man's meal is another man's rissoles") and Haddock's later clone Daphne Whitehigh who advised on the right way to prepare hippopotamus in the shell. She also turned up in all kinds of voices to suit the programme's *Film of the Week* parody.

She played Sheriff Kitty Dillon in "Tunbridge Wells Fargo" ("My Great grandfather Bicarbonate Dillon was one of the early settlers"), and as Mil-



Marsden in rehearsals for *Everybody Loves Opal*, 1964. She played Opal

Hulton Getty

licent in "Kitty From Kensington" she crooned, "I'd love to kiss and cuddle you hoo-hoo in a canoe-hoo-hoo." One hopes that the powers that be at the BBC will now rescue from their vaults some of the best remember BOKs (as they used to call *Beyond Our Kens*, especially their annual Giggleswade Music Festivals). Meanwhile Marsden's unique voice talents will always be treasured as long as there are sound cassettes.

Dennis Gifford

Betty Marsden died as she would have liked, writes Barry Took, in a bar with friends and with a glass

in her hand. Not that she was a lush, but she was expansive in her private life as well as in her public appearances.

She was one of the most distinguished broadcasters I have ever known, and radio was her métier. Her characterisations in *Round the Horne* ring still like so many perfectly tuned bells, and I can think of no one with a greater range.

I met her first in 1958 at the beginning of *Beyond Our Ken*, of which I was a co-writer for over 40 programmes, but it was in *Round the Horne* where Betty really shone. It took Marty Feldman and me no

time at all to realise what a star we had and as she was the only woman in the show we were able to give her plenty to do.

Our first creation was the ex-Gaiety girl Beatrice Clissold who, now the aged Lady Counterblast, reminisced with Kenneth Horne about her colourful past. We wrote: HORNE: I believe you have been married more than once.

LADY C: Yes, I was married many times, many many times...

Betty, alive to the value of a good catchphrase, seized on this and used it - well, many many times, to the delight of the listener.

Knowing the rapport she had with Hugh Paddick we invented a sort of Alfred Lunt/Lynn Fontanne couple who we called Dame Cella Molestranger and ageing juvenile Binkie Huckleback, writing for them various parodies of the *Brief Encounter* school of cinema. Betty played Dame Cella with a muted relish that was a joy.

Looking back I can see her at the microphone at the old Paris Studio in Lower Regent Street, elegant, poised and delivering her lines with crisp perfection: Daphne Whitehigh with her hints to housewives, a timid newly wed in a parody of *Gaslight*, a number of end-of-the-pier entertainers, various *femmes folies*, in James Bond send-ups, old bags, a sex-starved Australian, a more Dietrich than Dietrich Fraulein - nothing was beyond her nothing escaped her.

On *Round the Horne* we all loved her for her raucous sense of humour, her mischief and her singular charm. She was a one-off.

Beatrice (Betty) Marsden, actress and comedienne, born Liverpool 24 February 1919; married Dr Jimmy Muggoch (deceased); one son, one daughter; died Northwood, Middlesex 18 July 1998.

John Harding

JOHN HARDING was an authority on small crustaceans, and an all-round zoologist.

He was born in South Africa, where he developed an interest in natural history, but he was educated in England, where he graduated from the University College of Exeter and later obtained a doctorate at Cambridge. He also spent some time at the University of Cincinnati. After a brief period with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries he moved, in 1937, to the Natural History Museum, London, where he was to spend the rest of his professional life.

Here he studied the taxonomy of various groups of crustaceans embraced by the old name Entomostraca. The results of much of this work are tucked away in the scientific literature, but he will be remembered by several generations of freshwater biologists, amateur and professional, for the identification manual on the British species of what are popularly known as "waterfleas" that he produced in collaboration with a remarkable amateur investigator, D.J. Fourfield, in 1941. A *Key to the British Species of Freshwater Cladocera* has gone through several editions.

His work demanded that he cast his net widely and he became familiar with diverse groups of crustaceans, including copepods, ostracods (of which he described the first-known terrestrial species), and fairy shrimps. Always keen on the making of gadgets, he designed and constructed various devices that facilitated the manipulation and dissection of these often minute creatures. One such, based on the principle of the pantograph, was eventually marketed as the Labgear-Harding microdissector, enabling small organisms to be dissected under the microscope.

For many years he was also responsible for the annual compilation of the section of the *Zoological Record* that listed and categorised all publications dealing with the Crustacea - a much-appreciated service. Taxonomy seldom permits a light-hearted approach, but Harding's choice of names for previously unknown species was sometimes amusing. When viewed from the front, the head of one beast, belonging to a group that Americans call clam-shrimps, had a remarkably monkey-like appearance that earned it the specific name *simiustulipes*, while among animals derived from Lake Titicaca one received the specific name of *titi*, another *caca*.

He became Keeper of Zoology in 1954 and held this position until retirement in 1971.

A quiet, gentle individual, John Harding was a man of many talents. His wife,



Harding in his laboratory

Sidnie Manton (who died in 1979), one of the outstanding zoologists of her century, had the benefit of his photographic and other skills during her work on arthropod locomotion, and her book on *Colourpoint cats*, of which she was an enthusiastic breeder, is illustrated by his splendid photographs (*Colourpoint Longhair and Himalayan Cats*, 1971).

During her disabling illness he made various gadgets to improve her mobility. Bee-keeping, puzzle-solving and the making of elaborate Christmas cards were hut some of his diverse interests, and as a keeper of various pets one of his achievements was to provide conditions that enabled a pregnant cham-

eleon - Delilah by name - that I sent him from Malawi to lay eggs that successfully hatched: a feat that London Zoo was apparently unable to emulate.

A scooter enthusiast, he not only used such a vehicle for nipping through London traffic, but on several occasions scootered to the Lake District to meetings of the Council of the Freshwater Biological Association on which he long served. On one occasion he was so cold that he stopped at a convenient place, added his pyjama to his attire and, thus fortified, arrived safely. On another he ran out of fuel almost at journey's end, left his scooter at a house, in the dark, and completed his journey on foot.

Natural History Museum Archive

Next day we had to find the unknown house at which he had left his steed.

An unusual, perhaps unique, distinction was that, not once but twice, he stopped a railway train by use of the communication cord.

Geoffrey Fryer

John Philip Harding, zoologist; born Cape Town 12 November 1911; staff, British Museum (Natural History) 1937-71, Keeper of Zoology 1954-71; Visiting Professor, Westfield College, London 1971-77; married 1937 Sidnie Manton (died 1979); one son, one daughter; died East Hoathly, East Sussex 14 July 1998.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES

HAL HELLMAN

Furious feuds and battles of wit



Voltaire did not like miracles

IN THE 17th and 18th centuries, three major scientific feuds pitted a brilliant, wide-ranging generalist against an equally brilliant, but narrower, specialist. The outcomes of the feuds varied considerably, but each had major effects on the progress of mathematics and science, effects that reverberate into our own day.

Toward the end of the 17th century, for example, Thomas Hobbes, philosopher, political theorist, and lay scientist, battled furiously with John Wallis, a mathematician and, not incidentally, a cleric. Wallis loathed both Hobbes and his anticlerical ideas, and waited for Hobbes to blunder into his territory. This Hobbes finally did when he proposed a solution to a mathematical conundrum that had plagued geometers for more than 3,000 years.

The basic idea was to use geometric methods to construct a square with the same area as a given circle. It was called squaring the circle (the "quadrature" problem). Though Hobbes was wrong, he refused to accept this, and the controversy escalated - or degenerated - into a battle of wit. Hobbes described Wallis's ingenious algebraic method as "so covered over with the scab of symbols" that he had no patience to deal with it: it looked "as if a hen had been scraping there".

Was their quarter-century of battle a foolish waste of time and energy? Not at all. Both men, in different ways, were to have an impact on the later development of that mathematical engine of science, the calculus. But in this discovery too there was plenty of heat as well as light, for Isaac Newton and Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, two giants of their time, battled about priority. Accusations and counterclaims flew thick and fast. Although it is Leibniz's notation that is used today in calculus, and although Leibniz actually did publish first, it was Newton who prevailed in the personal battle they fought. Final result: one of Leibniz's friends noted in his memoirs that when Leibniz died in 1716 he was hurried "more like a robber than what he really was, the ornament of his country".

This feud, pitting two towering figures against each other in a terribly sad drama, came about largely because there was at the time no good way of establishing priority. The feud may well, then, have been a factor in the development of the modern

scientific paper. When this type of paper finally came into being in the middle of the 19th century, its objective seems to have been less to share new discoveries with the scientific community than to establish priority in the scientist's discovery.

Even Voltaire, our third generalist, turned his sights on poor Leibniz. In 1749, 33 years after Leibniz's death, he launched a savage assault on Leibniz's philosophy. Although Voltaire was not a trained scientist, he was certainly interested in the scientific world and can be considered one of our earliest science writers. It was he who introduced Newton's work to the European continent.

In a reverse twist, the generalist Voltaire lay in waiting for Joseph Turberville Needham, a cocky scientist and cleric, to commit a blunder of some sort. This Needham did when he performed an experiment that, he felt, demonstrated spontaneous generation, the generation of life from non-life, and therefore that miracles do happen. Voltaire did not like miracles, and he did not like Needham.

The dispute between Voltaire and Needham was an important factor in bringing the spontaneous generation question to a head, and it thereby caused the needed experimental evidence to appear that finally showed that both men's ideas on the subject were wrong. It also moved studies of biological development - still important today - into a scientific mode.

Hal Hellman is the author of "Great Feuds in Science: ten of the liveliest disputes ever" (Wiley, £16.50), published tomorrow

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

CUMMINS: In loving memory of John (JCI) of West Wickham, Kent, formerly of Dulwich. Passed away peacefully on 19 July 1998. Burial in Ireland on Friday 24 July 1998.

POSKETT: Leigh, peacefully at home with her family in Canberra, Australia. Enfolded in love - forever. 16 July 1998.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen holds an Investiture at Buckingham Palace. The Duke of Edinburgh visits its Co-Steel Sheerness plc, Sheerness, Kent. The Duke of York visits Boston and Cambridge, Massachusetts.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am. No 7 Company Coldstream Guards mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am. Band provided by the Coldstream Guards.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, forthcoming marriages, Marriages), which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line (VAT extra). Always include a daytime telephone number.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Harry Barnes MP 62; Dr Sir Reginald Bennett, former MP 87; Mr Jetmund Engeset, Surgeon to the Queen in Scotland, 60; Mr Bryan Forbes, novelist and film producer, 72; Sir Patrick Garland, High Court Judge, 69; Mr Jimmy Hill, television soccer presenter, 70; General Sir Charles Huxtable, former Commander-in-Chief, UK Land Forces, 67; Mrs Joanna Kennedy, civil engineer, 48; Miss Bonnie Langford, actress, 34; Professor Sir Ronald Mason, chemist, 68; Dr David Quarumby, Chairman, British Tourist Authority and English Tourist Board, 67; Mr Terence Stamp, actor, 60; Sir Anthony Steen MP 59; Mrs Alison Willocks, Head of Bedales School, 46.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Philip I, King of Spain, 1478; Anthony Ashley Cooper, first Earl of Shaftesbury, statesman, 1621; Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel, astronomer and mathematician, 1784; Gregor Johann Mendel, Augustinian monk and biologist, 1822; Louis-Gabriel Eugene Isabey, painter and lithographer, 1803; Sir Herbert Stanley Oakeley, composer and organist, 1830; The Rev William Archibald Spooner, originator of "spoonerisms", 1844; William Poel (Poel), actor-manager, 1852; Frederick William Roife ("Baron Corvo"), writer, 1860; Gus Elen (Ernest Augustus Elen), music-hall artist, 1862; Lev Borisovich Kamenev, politician, 1883; Selman Abraham Waksman, biochemist, 1888; Artur von Seyss-Inquart, Nazi High Commissioner of Bohemia, 1892; James Whale, film director, 1896; Stephen Vincent Benét, poet and novelist, 1898; Alexander Calder, bent-wire and metal sculptor, 1898.

Deaths: Simon Langham, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1376; Charles VII of France, 1461; Henry VII of France, assassinated 1589; John Dalton, poet, 1763; Marie-François Xavier Bichat, anatomist, 1802; Emmanuel-Henri Louis-Alexandre de Launay, Comte d'Antraigues, publicist, and his wife, an opera singer, murdered by a servant 1812; George Shaw, naturalist, 1813; Giuseppe Piazzi, monk and astronomer, 1828; Christopher Wilhelm Eckersberg, painter, 1853; Wilson Barrett (William Henry), actor and playwright, 1904; Friedrich Adolf Axel Detlev von Freiherr Lilienborn, writer, 1909; James Whitcombe Riley, poet, 1916; John Meade Falkner, novelist, 1932; Florenz Ziegfeld, theatrical producer, 1932; John Dillinger, "Public Enemy No 1", shot dead in an ambush 1934; William Lyon Mackenzie King, statesman, 1950; Carl Sandburg, poet, 1967; Sir Robert Eric Mortimer Wheeler, archaeologist, 1978; Harold Larwood, cricketer, 1995.

On this day: The French defeated the English at the Battle of Saintes, 1242; the English defeated the Scots, led by Wallace, at the Battle of Falkirk, 1298; Belgrade was besieged by the Ottoman Turks, 1456; Alexander Mackenzie crossed Canada overland and reached the Pacific, 1793; the English fleet drove off the French at the Battle of Cape Finisterre, 1805; in Spain, the Duke of Wellington defeated the French in the Battle of Salamanca, 1812; the Mormons, moving westwards, reached the site of Salt Lake City, 1847; Federal troops stopped the Confederates at the Battle of Atlanta, 1864; in Russia, Alexander Kerensky became prime minister, 1917; Wiley Post completed the first round-the-world solo air flight in seven days, 18 hours, 49 minutes, 1933; the

Bretton Woods Conference on international monetary policy ended, 1944; bread rationing started in Britain, 1946; after six years in exile, King Leopold III returned to Belgium, 1950; the Russian unmanned spacecraft Venera 8 made a soft landing on Venus, 1972; Greece and Turkey agreed to a ceasefire in Cyprus, 1974; the first London performance of the musical show *A Chorus Line* was staged, 1976.

Today is the Feast Day of St John Lloyd, St Joseph of Palestine, St Mary Magdalen, St Philip Evans, St Vandril or Wandregesilus.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Tom Parsons, "Caravaggio (iv): *Boy bitten by a lizard*", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Amelia Fearn, "Silver Design in the 20th Century (ii)", 2pm. British Museum: Jonathan Tubb, "The Raymond and Bevis Sackler Gallery of the Ancient Levant", 11.30am. National Portrait Gallery: Justin Mortimer, "BP Portrait Award 1998: the artist's view", 1.10pm.

DINNERS

Corporation of London A dinner was held yesterday evening by the Corporation of London at the Guildhall, London EC2, in honour of the President of the Azerbaijan Republic, Mr Heydar Aliyev. The Lord Mayor of London, Sir Richard Nichols, and the Lady Mayoress received the guests. Among those present were:

Mr Tadeusz Zulfargov, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Valad Aliyev, State Adviser of the President on Economic Issues, Mr Rafiel Aliyev, Mayor of Baku City, Mr Natiq Aliyev, President of SOCAR, Mr Ilham Aliyev, First Vice-President of SOCAR, The Ambassador of the Azerbaijan Republic, Mr Mahmud Mamed-Kuliyev, Mr Ali Asadov, Assistant to the President, Mr Akil Muradov, Mrs Dilara Seidova.

Assistant to the President: Mrs Shafiq Mamedova, Mr Omar Elikorov, Mr Vagif Akhmedov, General-Lieutenant, Adjutant of the President, Mr Boylar Gurov, Personal Secretary of the President, Mr Namiq Nasiriyev, Minister of Economy, Mr Nadir Akmedov, Minister of Agriculture, Mr Elman Isazade, Chairman of the Board of the National Bank, Mr Foad Akhmedov, President of the International Bank, The Ambassador of Lebanon, Dr Mahmoud Hamamoud, Lord Gifford, Lord Prior, Sir Malcolm Riddell, Mr Tim Kagger, Mr Derek Fatchett, MP, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Sir Patrick Waller, Sir James Spicer, Sir John Browne, Sir Fraser Morrison, Mr and Mrs Michael Oliver.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE

Sir Christopher Paine, President of the Royal Society of Medicine, yesterday presented Diplomas of Honorary Fellowship to Professor S. M. Goldberg, Lord Rix Whitehall, Surgeon Vice-Admiral Sir James Watt, Professor Claes-Goran Westrin and Mr James Noel Wilson. Lord Soulsby of Swaffham Prior was then installed as President. Lord and Lady Soulsby later presided over a reception and dinner at 1 Wimpole Street, London W1, for the new Honorary Fellows.

Among the guests were: Lord and Lady Walton; Baroness Wharton; Sir Gordon and Lady Weston; Sir David and Lady James Williams; Sir Donald and Lady Harrison; Dame Deirdre Hine and Mr R. Hine; Lord and Lady Lovell Davis; Lord McColl; Sir Donald Irvine; Sir Norman and Lady Browne; Sir Rodney and Lady Sweetman.

CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

The following resignations and retirements have been announced by the Church of England:

The Rev Graham Crossley, Priest-in-Charge, Gleadless Valley (Sheffield) resigned 30 June. The Rev Clive Kemp, Vicar, Sheffield St John the Evangelist (Sheffield) to retire 15 October. The Rev Bruce Lyons, Priest-in-Charge, Stugmeyer with Netcombe and Mousilver (Bath and Wells) to retire 30 September.

Limits to jurisdiction of Lands Tribunal

THE JURISDICTION of the Lands Tribunal to order discharge of a restriction upon the use of land was not necessarily co-existent with its jurisdiction to order modification of such a restriction.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal, by way of case stated, of the University of Westminster against the decision of the Lands Tribunal refusing to discharge certain restrictions on the use of land owned by it.

The land was subject to covenants restricting its use to certain specified purposes relevant to the provision of further education. The appellant applied to the Lands Tribunal, under section 84 of the Law of Property Act 1925, for the discharge or modification of those restrictions. The tribunal refused to discharge the restrictions, but determined that they should be modified so as to permit the land to be used for general educational purposes as well as for the specified purposes already permitted. The appellant appealed.

Nicholas Tappart (Nabarro Nothmans) for the appellant.

Lord Justice Chadwick said that the findings of fact made by the tribunal were not open to challenge, and, on the basis of those findings, there had been no jurisdiction to make an order to discharge the restrictions.

The following observations might be of future assistance to the tribunal. The jurisdiction of the Lands Tribunal under section 84(1) of the Law of Property Act 1925 to discharge a restriction affecting land was not necessarily co-extensive with the jurisdiction to order

WEDNESDAY LAW REPORT

22 JULY 1998

Re University of Westminster
Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Swinton, Thomas, Lord Justice Waller and Lord Justice Chadwick)
15 July 1998

modification of that restriction. Whether either jurisdiction existed would depend on the finding of fact made in relation to whichever of the statutory grounds in section 84(1) was relied on, and for that reason the tribunal's findings of fact should be specific.

It was a question of fact whether ground (b) in section 84(1), whether the persons entitled to the benefit of the restriction had applied either expressly or by implication to its discharge or modification, was made out in circumstances in which the only material from which agreement could be established was the failure of persons to whom notice of the application had been sent to respond to the notice. There was no presumption that failure to respond was sufficient evidence of agreement.

The tribunal had to ask itself whether, in the particular circumstances, it was appropriate to draw the inference that the absence of response was the result of agreement rather than inertia or misunderstanding. It was only if the tribunal was sat-

isied, on the balance of probabilities, (i) that every person so entitled had been served with notice, or had otherwise become aware, of the application and (ii) that any such person who was not in agreement with the proposal to discharge or modify the restriction would have thought it necessary to object in order to protect his interest, that the tribunal could exercise jurisdiction under ground (b) in a case where there was no other evidence of agreement.

If an applicant intended to place reliance under ground (b) on a failure to respond to notice of a composite application, the notice would need to be drawn so as to make the distinction between discharge and modification, and the respective consequences of each, clear beyond the possibility of misunderstanding.

Once jurisdiction was established, the decision whether or not to make an order required an exercise of discretion, but that discretion could only be exercised in respect of the order which the tribunal had jurisdiction to make. It was only where there was jurisdiction to order both discharge and modification that the tribunal would have a discretion to choose between discharge and modification.

A finding of fact that one or more of the statutory grounds existed was likely of itself and without more, to provide a good reason for making an order then, in the absence of some reason to the contrary, an order ought to be made in the proper exercise of the tribunal's discretion.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

DICKENS was very fond of what's-it's-names, Thackeray preferred thingamys. The language of vagueness - the all-purpose answer to an attack of nominal aphasia - has been with us for more than 300 years. Dryden started it in 1697 when he wrote: "Two figures on the sides appear: Conon, and What's his name who

WORDS
WILLIAM HARTSTON
whatsisname, colloq.

made the sphere." It was Dickens, however, who popularised an impersonal use of what's-it's-name. We read of "what's-it's-name Place" in *Nicholas Nickleby*,

and "seclusion and contemplation are my what's-his-name" in *Dombey and Son*. In 1978, the *New York Times* asked: "What visual need caused the unforgettable 'whatsisname' to become 'whatsisface'?" The blame rests on Dickens, who depersonalised *Whatisname*, leaving the word needing a face-lift.

REAL BRITANNIA

What does it mean to be British? PART THREE

VOX
BRITANNIA
How British are you?

Caroline Larsen, 36, lawyer, London
To be British means to be cool and traditional and to have a dislike of foreigners. When you travel, saying you're British gets a good reaction. I'd rather be thought of as being British than as American or German. The British get a good reception abroad, apart from Australia and New Zealand. Those ex-colonies don't want to be associated with us and New Zealanders blame Britain for all their problems. As British people, we don't blow our own trumpet. We respect tradition and inherited wealth and often look down on someone who has made it by their own ability.

National pride is important, otherwise you don't have much to hang on to. When Princess Di died it brought us all together. When someone criticises Britain it makes you fiercely patriotic. I am ashamed of British hooliganism generally, and lager louts and British holiday-makers in Spain in particular.

I am British but it hasn't come from my family, who are half-Danish. I was brought up with Danish traditions and standards. Because of that, whenever I see something traditional such as Union Jacks I don't really find that it's part of me. This gives me a different insight into being British. This country is not parochial; it's a multicultural society, which I love. Apparently, the most popular dish in Britain is chicken tikka masala.

Nicola Cook, 25, youth worker, London
I love that British person abroad look of vinyl socks with sandals. While everybody else in Europe is turned out really well, the British will all wear 10-year-old T-shirts with a logo that no longer exists. We enjoy looking scruffy. It's that British aversion to ironing. What's odd about the British is that we have a reputation for being loud and drunken on holiday but if there is something wrong we won't complain. If the toilet's broken in the hotel room we won't make a fuss. It's the embarrassment factor.

I'm very British, in that I need a cup of tea to function. My husband is American and when his family come over and we go to a British pub they'll all talk really loudly and I try and get them to keep their voices down.

The British can talk on most subjects. Our news is some of the best in the world. We travel a lot and we've just about recognised that we should learn a few words in another language.

British women have a terrible holiday reputation. They go off in big groups and sleep around. I think that is because, as a nation, we are quite sexually repressed at home. Other countries kiss hello; we just about shake hands.

Also there's this obsession with homes and DIY. And it's a British thing not to care about children but to adore animals. Look at those little old ladies who leave thousands in their wills to a dog's home.

Bryan Gough, 62, care visitor, Camberley, Surrey
When I went into National Service in 1954 I just wanted to get away from home really. I had nothing to do with patriotism. I joined the Navy, where all the Scots boys, Welsh boys and West country boys were put together, and I got a feeling for what was going on in the rest of Britain.

In the Navy you were made to feel responsible to Queen and country, but we were more proud of our ship and uniform than of our country, and were proud to be in the senior service rather than the RAF or the Army. You were conscious of the uniform that you wore, and you never let it down.

The British acquiesce to other people's requirements, but if pushed against a wall they fight back. We love an underdog.

We've not been invaded by a fighting force for hundreds of years but now we've been invaded in a financial way, which is more pernicious. When I was young people didn't stamp over others to get what they wanted. People in Britain are so much more materialistic now, it seems. Years ago, you respected people as long as they didn't cross over the threshold and invade your space.

INTERVIEWS BY CAYTE WILLIAMS



Braveheart portrayed the English as a 'race of sadistic, arrogant, posh poofs'

All those in favour say 'aye'

WHOSE BRITANNIA?

Nationalism by Harry Ritchie (a Scot)

The most remarkable and least-mentioned aspect of the British participation in this summer's World Cup - which has become the planet's most important opportunity for national self-assertion - was that there was no team representing Britain. The man initially responsible for this anomaly was Jimmy Ross, a Scottish footballer who played for Preston North End and, in a match on 30 October 1886, made the mistake of fouling an opponent wearing the hoops of Queen's Park. Preston were playing away from home and Ross's foul went down badly with the local crowd. A fair fraction were so incensed that they invaded the pitch and tried to attack Ross, who had to be snuggled out of the ground.

Although this match was an FA Cup tie, the team wearing the hoops were really Queen's Park from Glasgow and not their near-namesakes from Shepherd's Bush. In their illustrious Victorian days, Queen's Park were Scotland's leading representatives in what was originally a British competition (and, in the two seasons before the ill-fated Preston North End clash, the Scots had reached the FA Cup final) - until Jimmy Ross committed his foul, the Glaswegian fans went mental, and the Scottish Football Association, which was already at odds with the FA, took the chance to secede.

Let us imagine an alternative world, where Jimmy Ross had contracted flu on 29 October 1886, the match had passed off without incident and there was no breakaway by the SFA and no separate status for the four footballing home nations, so that the World Cup 112 years later included a team in which John Collins played alongside Paul Ince and Ryan Giggs supplied crosses to Alan Shearer.... In that alternative world, where Collins's calm temperament and skill would have ensured a second-round victory over Argentina, would I have passed Norman Tebbit's notorious Test test and supported Great Britain?

Well, yes, a bit, kind of... but I would only have scraped a pass, and I would certainly not have reacted with the same howling, traumatised passion as I did when supporting Scotland - and Tunisia, Romania, Colombia and (let us be honest about this) Argentina. Like most British people, I do not think of myself as being British. I accept the label, but reluctantly and to far less an extent than I would accept being categorised as European. In fact, when I renew my passport next month, it will come as something of a relief to have the old dark-blue number with the Britannic Majesty stuff replaced by one of those plasticky red Euro jobs.

If you find the first sentence in the preceding paragraph offensive, or my attitude depressingly unpatriotic, it is odds-on that you are one or more of the following: 1. of an age to have acquired a bus pass, 2. very right-wing, 3. a member of the Orange Lodge, 4. English.

And if you are English, then it is odds-on that when you say "Britain", you are really thinking of England, and that the adjective "British" evokes images that are distinctly (and anachronistically) English - stiff upper lip, Cotswoldian landscape, cricket, warm beer, village greens, and all that. Given that this is a country which evokes responses from its citizenry ranging from confusion through embarrassment and all the way to outright rejection, it seems extraordinary that the Union might be questioned, but that my about-to-expire passport states that there is still such an entity as the "United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland".

In fact, had the First World War not intervened, Scotland and possibly Wales would have a status similar to that which Catalonia or Andalusia has with Spain. Devolution was very much part of the agenda of the ruling Liberal party, which was anxious to avoid seeing the issue of Scottish and Welsh home rule develop as it had in what was to become the Republic of Ireland.

The absence of an Easter Rising in Cardiff or Edinburgh does point to a couple of truths which some Welsh and Scottish separatists try hard to ignore - that Wales and Scotland were joined to England by Acts of Union rather than overt colonisation and that, consequently, the Welsh and Scots have not really been the victims of English oppression in the way that some extreme nationalists still like to think. None the less, the political fault lines within Great Britain have widened since the days when its inhabitants might have found some sense of unity by having a shared enemy (the Germans) and a shared enterprise scheme (the Empire).

Welsh nationalism has not been quelled by the bilingual signs for Beics and Taisis that do so much to help all those non-Anglophone folk in Cardiff who are stumped by English spelling. Despite retaining distinctive and separate religious, legal, educational, sporting, and fiscal institutions, a separate media and civil service, and such ac-

cess to the corridors of British power that Scots accents can be heard in those corridors with the frequency that they are now heard on voice-overs in ads, Scots have not been appeased. Quite the opposite. The SNE which possessed just 2,000 members in 1945, and boasted 80,000 members and 11 MPs at its supposed peak 30 years later, has, amazingly, now leapfrogged the Labour party north of the Border. This could be a glitch, helped by Labour's complacency and scandals dogging the party in Glasgow and its hinterland, but in fact the opinion polls now put the SNP 14 points ahead of Labour - one hell of a glitch, and a lead that will take some overtaking before Scotland's first parliamentary elections next May.

The realistic prospect of Scottish independence has been met with various reactions south of the Border - from a disgruntled "well, bugger off then", to a pained "what did we do wrong?" - but I would argue that a constitutional makeover is necessary for the political and cultural health of England as well as its three small neighbours. Of course, it is right to examine any expression of nationalism with care, if not suspicion. With its record for most of this century, when nationalism has inspired flag-waving, gutturing supremacism, it has been easy to see why President Mitterrand could state, "Nationalism - that is war", and why Einstein compared nationalism to "an infantile sickness - the measles of the human race". This also explains why, when I have argued the nationalist cause with English friends, I have been treated to the kind of expressions normally displayed to huntsmen or Afrikaners nostalgic for apartheid.

But, as has been proved by the emergence of new nation states after the break-up of the Soviet Union, there need not be a connection between nationalism and Fascist violence. That link can still exist, as we have seen in much of the catastrophic tribalism in the Balkans, but there is a fundamental difference between mature, dignified self-assertion and puerile, demonising aggression, between the SNP and the BNP. So much so that the vision which drives the SNP - of a regained national integrity - is badly required in England itself, which suffers such a crisis of identity and confidence that the flag of St George is not one to rally around - unless, of course, you

are an 18-stone skinhead with tattoos on your teeth. More reassurance can be found in the nature of the changes envisaged by contemporary nationalism, because these changes are not primarily financial. The SNP and Plaid Cymru have not only survived but prospered in an age of European Union, conglomerates and global money markets, because those pan-national forces mean that the politics of independence have become far less concerned with money and far more to do with the abstract nouns that motivate nationalists in the first place.

Thus, two decades after vigorously campaigning with the promise/threat to hold on to the North Sea's petrodollars, the SNP produces budget forecasts to reassure the electorate that financially things will be more or less the same.

So what would you notice in a de-Unionised country? The changes wouldn't be the ones I used to daydream about - Border guards just north of Berwick, the M8 being renamed the N1 and the bureaux de change at Glasgow Airport busily handing over bawbees and pounds. Rather, a de-Unionised set of separate but closely related countries would far better reflect how these countries feel about themselves and each other. Politically, Wales could finally make up its mind whether to go it alone, Scotland would have the chance to govern itself with the radicalism Scots make so much of, and England would have a parliament free of the job lot of Scottish MPs, whose one requirement for election is that they wear a red rosette. Culturally, England could dispense with its England/Britain confusion and update its crazy self-image, and Scotland could at last afford to phase out the Anglophobia that reached its nadir in the ludicrous *Braveheart*, a film that confidently portrayed the English as a race of sadistic, arrogant, posh poofs.

In fact, it is a tribute to the English tradition of tolerance (as well as the English tradition of failing to pay attention to the way others see them) that the present state of affairs has, with the tragic exception of Northern Ireland, managed to survive the anglophobia throughout the Celtic fringe with no more than occasional arson attacks on holiday cottages in Wales and irate letters to *The Scotsman* about the continuing outrage presented by the current queen being titled Elizabeth II. But the blessed lack of paramilitary activity north and west of the borders is no reason to assume that the Union can or should continue. Despite what those charmers in their orange sashes and bowler hats like to think, there is really no such thing as "Britishness", and no point in continuing the pretence.

BRITANNIA TOMORROW

RACIST BRITANNIA

Brian Cathcart on the need to

own up to prejudice

Sanjiv Bhattacharya on an eccentric display of nostalgia for British heritage

Michael Winner will answer readers' questions next week

Nursery food for the Empire

ABSOLUTELY BRITANNIA

Macaroni Cheese
by Peter York

MACARONI CHEESE combines the verbal swagger of period imported Italian (and we know "macaroni" meant, roughly, "ponce" in the 18th-century Vauxhall Gardens world), with the compressed, rubbery, utilitarian sound of the most English word imaginable: cheese. Dignified economy - cheese-paring - is a lost British art, entirely inconceivable to anyone under 40. It had a glorious language, equally lost. My two treasured examples were the Third Programme format "there now follows a short recital on gramophone records" intoned in that posh undertaker's National Emergency voice, school of Alvar Lidell; and Faber paper-covered editions.

Macaroni cheese is firmly anchored in this world for me, though I never for a moment thought of it as cheese-paring - "a light supper", at the time, I loved it. I still love it.

It wasn't called "pasta" then, either. I knew macaroni had a familiar relationship with spaghetti, but that was about it. Macaroni was simply a component of macaroni cheese and had no other life, and it couldn't have seemed more domestic. It never occurred to me that it had remotely exotic origins. It seemed as British as, say, curry or mango chutney. I went to a school that respected the rights of the



vegetarian child, to the extent of consistently over-estimating their numbers and cooking too much for them, which meant other, carnivorous children could have lovely things like macaroni cheese and a delicious compound called potato cheese as seconds. I had thirds if I could. The hit you got from that combination of farinaceous cylinders and baked yellow fat, with a lot of salt and pepper, was utterly wonderful.

I never liked sweets and chocolates much, and would have forgone puddings any day for what hotels and British Rail called a savoury - mushrooms on toast or Welsh rabbit - but macaroni cheese was my absolute favourite.

It's tempting to think of it as a kind of British Empire nursery food, along with boiled eggs and soldiers, rice pudding or tapioca; and so, in a way, it was. A modestly priced, uncomplicated recipe by Anon, clearly safe for children. After

But any more of this poor man's Alan Bennett line of thought, and we'll be on to the subject of Dame Thora Hird. Macaroni cheese doesn't need nostalgic argument; it continues to deliver where semolina absolutely can't (nor Vesta curries - a wonderful period detail, but who could actually eat the things now?). I even think macaroni cheese was a sort of precursor to fast food - its bid on cheesiness had appeals which set me up for pizza and a whole raft of strong, cheap American things.

Now, I don't need to get remotely wistful about macaroni cheese. I can have it whenever I want, microwaveable from Findus, 99p for 465 calories. While the tinned version was unthinkable - mushy macaroni in pale, slimy sauce better suited to Ambrosia rice pudding - chilling and freezing both deliver something uncommonly better than real.

I fear, however, that this wonderfully banal staple is going to be reworked in more sophisticated ways. Clever cheeses, bits of interesting vegetable matter and a speckling of classy meats will justify it as a 26.50 starter on an eclectic menu.

I'm all in favour of value added in principle, but I don't want to see foreign words such as "with" near macaroni cheese.

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Superbad

He's the Godfather of Soul. The man who invented funk. The most sampled artist alive. And he's back and proud. By Phil Johnson

"FELLAS", HE says, "I'm ready to get up and do my thing. I want to get into it, man, y'know? Like a, like a sex machine, man. Moving, doing it, y'know? Can I count it off? One, two, three, four!" Then the rhythm begins, the elasticated metre rebounding again and again, as in that game where you hit the tennis ball on a rubber string and it keeps coming back, the angle of each swing slightly different to the one before. The sound is both tight and loose at the same time, and once wound up and set in motion, the groove compels your body to jerk involuntarily in time with the beat. This isn't music in the usual sense. Here, normal time doesn't count anymore. And although the recording actually lasts for exactly 5 minutes and 16 seconds, it never really ends: the swing-ball rhythm has been internalised, to rebound in your mind and body forever after.

Tonight and tomorrow night, James Brown, now 65 (or 70, depending upon which version of the legend you subscribe to), plays two shows at London's Barbican as part of the year-long "Inventing America" season. The tag is a fitting one, because Brown really is one of the great inventors.

Back in the mid-Fifties, he helped to create soul out of the raw materials of gospel and rhythm and blues; in the Sixties he was responsible for the creation of funk, although credit ought to be shared with his back-room boys, such as Bobby Byrd, Bootsy Collins, Fred Wesley and other members of his band, who tinkered creatively with the new funk machine for little or no reward.

You can also make a case for Brown being the original inventor of the genre that we now call dance music, the form that during the past

decade has begun to replace rock as the dominant force in contemporary pop culture. The roots of the British dance music scene lie largely in the "Rare Groove" movement of the early to mid Eighties, and Rare Groove is largely comprised of old James Brown, and James Brown-derived, funk records.

In due course, the more creative DJs like Coldcut began to make their own records, juxtaposing "found" fragments from old James Brown tracks with sundry other

The sound is both tight and loose, and once wound up and set in motion, the groove compels your body to jerk involuntarily

sources. Brown swiftly became the most sampled artist in the world, his drum patterns, horn-stabs and vocal interjections cut up and recycled over and over again, to the point where his own records became almost unlistenable.

The sampling years also coincided with Brown himself going off the rails, in a series of criminal episodes involving the principal icons of American culture: cars, drugs and guns.

In September 1988, Brown burst into an insurance seminar taking place next door to his office in Augusta, Georgia, brandishing a shotgun and a pistol and complaining that someone had used his private bathroom. The police were called and an OJ-style chase ensued, with Brown's truck allegedly attempting to run over two policemen before

crashing a road-block on the state-line. Marksmen shot the truck's tyres but Brown still managed another six miles on the rims. As the police arrested him, he was said to have sung "Georgia" and done the "Good Foot" dance.

Released on bail, Brown was re-arrested 24 hours later for driving under the influence of PCP. Refusing to plead guilty and cop ninety days, he was sentenced to six years in jail, a tough rap for someone who had once been courted by Presidents. He served two and a half years. On his release in 1991, the Internal Revenue Service filed suit claiming he owed US\$11 million in back taxes. Problems with the law have continued ever since, and Brown comes to London straight from another forced spell of "rehab" for further offences.

The James Brown story has all the qualities of legend. Indeed, much of it may be more legendary than true. Born on May 3, 1933 (although even this is disputed, some sources claiming it is 1928) in a shack outside Barnwell, South Carolina, he was brought up by his father after his mother left home for the North when he was four. When he was six, Brown's father left too, and he moved to Augusta, Georgia, in the care of his Aunt Minnie, where they lived in a rooming-house that also served as a tavern and a brothel. Although he learned to play the harmonica, the organ, and, as a boy scout, the bugle, Brown's real interest was sport. However, when he was eleven years old, he won his first talent contest as a singer, and began singing in local bands.

He also became a juvenile delinquent with a taste for stealing cars, spending most of his later teens in reform school in Georgia, where he

formed a gospel quartet. On his release he met Bobby Byrd at a baseball game, and his musical career proper began as a singer with Byrd's band the Avons. By 1964, the band had become the Flames and moved to Macon. After the band's demo recording of "Please, Please, Please" was heard by a talent scout, the by-now Famous Flames were signed to King Records of Cincinnati. Released as a single in 1956, the record was a slow-burning hit, eventually selling a million.

The rest reads like a core history of black American music for the next 20 years. If "Please, Please, Please" helped to usher in soul, by 1965, with "Papa's Got a Brand New Bag", and "I Got You (I Feel Good)", Brown was already inventing the prototypes of funk. In 1970, immediately following a live show in Nashville, he recorded "Get Up (I Feel Like Being A) Sex Machine", typically recycling elements of a previous tune, "Give It Up Or Turn It Loose".

How James Brown will sound nearly 30 years on from "Sex Machine" is difficult to anticipate, but he can usually be relied on to put on a show: the rooming list faxed to the Barbican requests accommodation for 14 musicians, 6 female vocalists, 4 dancers, and an "Emcee". But however he sounds, when those heavily-padded knees hit the floor for the millionth time, the droplets of brilliant sweat cascade down the mighty slopes of his pompadoured peak, and the cadaverous man with the cape comes on stage once again to beg his boss to call it a day, at least you'll be able to say that you've seen James Brown.

James Brown plays the Barbican, London EC1, tomorrow and Thursday, tel: 0171-638 8891



James Brown - the man who put the funk into soul

Redferns

A sea-change into something rich and strange

A Cuban theatre company has come to Shakespeare's Globe to do *The Tempest*, starring Hamlet, Shylock, Othello and Macbeth... By Judith Palmer

PROSPERO COULD not have done it better himself. Five minutes before a dress rehearsal of *Otra Tempestad* (Another Tempest), a lightning fork rips through the sweltering sky above Shakespeare's Globe, a great roll of thunder comes bellying through the thatch and a shower of raindrops crashes into the pit. Other touring companies might be fazed by the unpredictability of creating theatre Globe-style, but for the Cuban group Teatro Buendia, this is business as usual. "In our theatre in Havana, the rain pours through the roof all the time," laughs Buendia's director, Flora Lauten.

A former beauty queen (to satisfy her mother's fantasies), Lauten was the last Miss Cuba before the revolution in 1958, forsaking the offers of riches in America to become a serious actor back home. As professor of drama at the Institute of Arts in Havana, she founded the award-winning Teatro Buendia in

1986, setting up in an old church. "The lights are always going off in Cuba so our audiences regularly have to wait two or three hours in the dark until they go back on," Ms Lauten explains. "It's a sacrifice for them, so it's important for the audiences to see we make sacrifices, too. They can see the hard physical training the actors have put into developing their bodies. Also, Cuba is a hot country, and these actors sweat a lot. Our audiences respect us for that."

Playful, wide-eyed and exhaustingly acrobatic, Buendia are an intense experience. Running for a week as part of the annual international "Globe to Globe" season, they make a welcome loopy diversion from the Globe's heritage-trail traditionalism.

The London weather may recognise Buendia's play as a version of *The Tempest*, but in truth, Shakespeare's final play has been hijacked as thoroughly as Prospero's dukedom. Leaf through the cast list and you will find a curious roll call: there is Prospero, the magician; his daughter, Miranda; the sprite, Ariel; and witch's son, Caliban; plus Hamlet, Othello, Shylock and Macbeth.

"We thought all the most important themes of Shakespeare should be on that boat," explains Ms Lauten. "Macbeth is there as the symbol of treason and ambition, Shylock as avarice, and so forth. All of them are eager to go to this new world and leave their pasts behind, but everything they left keeps coming again and again full circle. These things are all aspects of the human soul and you cannot escape them."

"It's very difficult to construct a Utopia," she sighs. "It isn't easy to manage power." The links between Prospero's island and Cuba are obvious - an isolated island, ruled by a dictator in the last days of his powers - but *Otra Tempestad* is no agit-



Teatro Buendia hijack 'The Tempest'

Geraint Lewis

prop allegory. Prospero does not wear khaki or wave a cigar.

Buendia's play is more about examining archetypal behaviour, investigating the space where worlds collide, the confluence of old and new

world orders, going back to the age of the conquistadors, and the Renaissance dreamings of Francis Bacon and Thomas More. Above all, it is a bewitching confection of magic realism, of tricky spirits

and bizarre illusions which, for all its intrigues and deceptions, somehow keeps faithful to the flavour of Shakespeare's original play.

The production draws on Cuba's Yoruban and Araraun cultures, brought to the Caribbean by African slaves, and now firmly melded to the island's Spanish Catholicism.

"Yoruban gods are not as strict as the Catholic God," says Ms Lauten. "They don't say all the time: 'This is right and this is wrong.' They are much more flexible and playful, so you never really know where you are. They are much more vulnerable too. If you've asked the gods for something and they don't do it, people punish them: they take their statues and turn them against the wall as if they were a little child."

Like the Brazilian practice of *candomblé* in Bahia, the syncretistic religion of *santería* in Cuba fuses Catholicism with the gods of Nigeria and the Congo to create dual-

personality saints. Santa Teresa, for example is also the malevolent goddess, Oya; Caridad del Cobre (the patron saint of Cuba) is also the sweet-natured goddess, Oshun.

In *Otra Tempestad*, Ms Lauten layers on yet another association, as the shape-shifting *santería* goddesses (or *orishas*) take on the forms of Shakespearean heroines. Oya, goddess of the cemetery, can turn herself into Lady Macbeth or Hamlet's mother, Oshun, shy river-goddess of love and honey, becomes Desdemona and Ophelia. As the Western conquerors beach up on their Caribbean paradise, the magical blue-lipped *orishas* transform themselves into the fantasy females that the men have on their minds, ensnaring them in their ever-recurring histories.

Otra Tempestad is at Shakespeare's Globe, Bankside, London SE1 until 26 July (0171-401 9919)

Vanity, obsession, love and lovelessness

POP

MARC ALMOND
ALMEIDA THEATRE
LONDON

JUST BEFORE kick-off tonight, a tall, dark, handsome Goth in the audience takes a minute to refresh his black lipstick. When it's done, he turns to his girlfriend with a rueful, self-mocking moue. It's a fitting opener for an evening of vanity, obsession, love and lovelessness. Marc Almond's customary stock in trade - but this time done with a grace we haven't seen before.

Almond's new album is called *Open All Night* and, back when people had such things as catchphrases, that wouldn't have done badly as his. One track, a harmonica melody called "My Love", is a wicked little hymn to someone who wears "purple, week-old mascara and a broken diary", who "wakes up on vodka, beds down on Valium, and sleeps on the floor", who's "beautifully wasted... a living disaster". Of course, this used to be Marc's own story.

Back then, he was an archetype of the perennially messed-up drama queen abandoned at the door of the Pink Flamingo or some other sordid haunt, face smudged with mascara dislodged by Niagara's tears. Some of this was autobiography, but most was actually consummate method acting, and that's what we get this evening.

He snakes onstage in black, pale as Banquo's ghost but more provocative, and looking nowhere near 41.

"I'm gonna take you on a journey through my night," he says, with a smile like Frankie Howerd's but lugubriously sincere as Valentine Dyal. We start with a series of bed songs, from the woozy "Scarlet Bedroom", whose walls are dyed, you'd imagine, not with paint but blood, to a poem about Marlene Dietrich's bed, where she lived out her last 10 years - "full of crisps and orange rind/ And who-knows-what else you'll find".

Travelling in the wake of Marc's narcissistic voyage, we travel to the backstreets of the Ramblas for the Catalan erotica of "Black Heart", peer inside the soul of a jaded gigolo in the hypnotic swamp blues "The Flame", and hit some Kurt Weill oom-pah-pah for the era

POP

MARC ALMOND
ALMEIDA THEATRE
LONDON

of "Mother Fist". There's a bit of the new album's trip-hop and voodoo as well as its smoochy, Machiavellian "When Bad People Kiss" (no shortage of oral gratification tonight). Almond interprets it all with cabaret flourish, twisting his arms like Kate Bush (no mean feat when his fingers carry a hundredweight of silverware) and torchier than Edith Piaf, Scott Walker and Shirley Bassey all rolled into one emoting bundle.

His voice is resonant and worked-on - Jacques Brel via Julie London - and his band, particularly Rick May on double bass, execute cool rock and bluesy jazz with equal aplomb.

What pulls it all together, though, is a subtly humorous subtext, that tongue-in-cheek thing with which Marc Almond, with a lop-sided grin, sends up what might be overwrought so that it becomes oddly touching.

If he's arch and sometimes artificial, then that's what makes him human: a man who's taken his trauma (and Marc's had huckledloads) and transformed it into the sort of style Judy Garland would've died for.

GLYN BROWN

Set adrift on cloud nine

MOST OF us dream of getting away from it all, of winning the lottery, or of realising some lifelong ambition. But for artist Zoë Walker, the ultimate in escapism is to strap on her own personal cloud, and attempt to float up into the sky. Walker's *Dream Cloud* is made of nylon, filled with helium and worn like a parachute. And her efforts to take off from various sites around Scotland, which have all been photographed for the record, show her leaping enthusiastically from hill tops or racing downhill in an attempt to get the wind behind her.

The work of a mad woman or deluded creative, you may think, but Walker's attempts to achieve lift-off are purely symbolic. Her message is simple: you may know your dreams are impossible to achieve, but that is no reason for letting go of them and depriving yourself of the pleasure of a little fantasy.

"Dream Cloud," Walker explains, "is a piece I made in response to the skies in Orkney. When standing on an island looking out to a blank horizon where all you can see is clouds, the clouds become the new unknown lands, the unreachable goal."

The Travelling Gallery, which was first set up 20 years ago, consists of a purpose-built gallery space which is housed in a hus and takes a varied programme of contemporary art to communities

GALLERY WEEK

TRAVELLING GALLERY
ORKNEY

throughout Scotland. This week, the gallery, which is currently acting as Walker's mobile base, visits Orkney. Workshops on offer include the chance to make your own "magic transporter" shoes or imaginary, paradise island. Insufficient helium means Walker

is unable to remain airborne for more than a few seconds at a time, but she is not going to let a little thing like that stop her flight of fancy, and the people of Scotland are encouraging her all the way.

"Dream Cloud," the Travelling Gallery, visits Orkney 21-25 July. For information, call 0131-529 3930

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CLOTHES LINE

OUT OF THE
BATHROOM CABINET

EAGLE-EYE CHERRY, ACTOR TURNED MUSICIAN

"BEING A musician decides a lot of what I wear; when I am in the studio recording I tend to change into more laid-back clothes, such as Adidas trainers and sportswear. Or if I am going to do a show with a young audience, like *Top of the Pops*, it's a 'cleaner' look, but it's still me.

I don't keep myself informed of fashion. I have my own style although I couldn't define it. I am not a brand name buyer, but when you start getting into this business you get given clothes from designers. I like Paul Smith, not the crazier stuff, but the cut on the straighter style works on me. Now that I am on the road all the time I have a lot of these Levi's slacks that don't wrinkle. And I always take at least one suit with me, usually my Paul Smith, my most

expensive buy at around \$400. Of course, I wouldn't wear anything I didn't want to wear; the vest and baseball cap I wore in the video wasn't something for everyday life.

I used to be more into baggy clothes, buying them a couple of sizes too big, but I am now getting comfortable with my slim body. The shirts I wear are normally for warm weather. I have lots of short-sleeved shirts in a Cuban style from Hugo Boss. I also have a lot of Vans sneakers. My favourite item is my leather jacket, from a second-hand market. In the winter I wear turtle-neck sweaters. When the next album comes out I expect my look will change. I think you need to evolve in this business."

INTERVIEW BY
JENNIFER RODGERHOT THING
SEW-YOUR-OWN JEANS

WE thought we'd seen every conceivable version of the dark denim jean, until last week. Nestling between the young British designers at London Men's Fashion Week was Japanese designer Shinichiro Arakawa and his collection of reinvented sportswear pieces. Among them was his own take on the jean, ones you sew together yourself. There are two ways to buy them - flat packed (Ikea style) which must be cut and sewn, and the ready-made version - and two ways to wear them: inside out, or outside in. Instead of providing a paper pattern, the length of denim is covered with pattern guidelines. Once

made-up the jeans have a work-in-progress feel. The designer sells them all year round at his Paris shop. They are also available a shop in Portobello market where they can be ordered over the phone. The jeans come in one size, 12-14 for a woman and 32" waist for a man, but the leg is very long.

Sew-your-own jeans, £75 for the flat pack, £155 for ready made, available from 2 Tuff, 10 Portobello Green Arcade, 281 Portobello Road, London W10. Mail order: 0181 964 4767. Shinichiro Arakawa, 1 Rue du Plâtre, 75004 Paris. Tel: 00 33 1 42 78 48 58.

FASHION TYPES

Dreams
are made
of this

François Lesage is
the haute couture
embroiderer. Adored by
designers, no request is
too decadent.

HAUTE couture without embroidery is non-existent," insists Karl Lagerfeld, and, in the Kaiser's opinion, there is no better embroiderer in the world than François Lesage.

He is the man Christian Lacroix refers to as his "godfather" and during Paris's haute couture week, rarely a collection goes by without Lesage's skills being on show. About the only couturier he does not work for is Alexander McQueen. "We had a misunderstanding about one dress," says Lesage ruefully. "So now, I'm punished!"

This year marks his 50th anniversary in the business. In that time, he has worked for everyone from Christian Dior and Yves Saint Laurent to Cristóbal Balenciaga and Pierre Balmain. He also designed the CK logo for Calvin Klein and as a child, sat on Elsa Schiaparelli's knee and received a car-full of presents from Madeleine Vionnet for Christmas.

The walls of his small attic office are covered with letters of appreciation from contemporary designers. "I love Monsieur Lesage," declares Azzedine Alaïa. "He is in a league of his own". "His genius resides in the way he mixes stones, metal and sequins," asserts Lacroix. "He has also introduced new techniques, such as lasers, holograms and oxidation without losing any of the refinement of luxurious elegance."

"He has a great knowledge of tradition and a wonderful savoir-faire," enthuses Jean-Paul Gaultier. "He is very intelligent, always optimistic and simply bursting with creativity."

In his office are also numerous fashion sketches and photos of him posing with Lacroix, Saint Laurent, Lagerfeld, Paco Rabanne and Alaïa. An easel stands by one wall with swatches of antique fabric on it and a richly embroidered bolero jacket hangs behind his imposing wooden desk.

These slightly claustrophobic headquarters near the Paris Opera have been home to the house of Lesage since 1931 and the current owner is more than happy to regale you with details of its glorious past. He talks volubly, often heads off on impressively long tangents and peppers his answers with colourful anecdotes.

At 69, he maintains a quite remarkable vitality. He is the very image of a bon vivant and admits to having "a cult for women".

Lesage's father, Albert, entered the world of fashion after the First World War as manager-designer of women's made-to-order dressmaking for the Chicago-based department store, Marshall Field.

On his return to Paris in 1924, he bought out an embroiderer, Michonnet, who had worked for Chanel, Lanvin, Worth and Paquin.

He also met his future wife, Marie-Louise, there. She worked for designer Madeleine Vionnet and was responsible for checking that the embroidery was being executed by Michonnet according to her employer's wishes.

At the time Vionnet was the queen bee of French fashion. It was she who introduced the bias cut and over the next five years, Lesage produced over 1,500 pieces of embroi-

dery for her. In the Thirties, he also worked on Schiaparelli's legendary theme collections, based on music, the circus, the forest and astrology.

François was born in 1929 and claims to have never considered any other career options. "I was born on this heap of pearls," he jokes.

He created his first embroidery in 1946 while his parents were away on holiday. An important Italian client turned up demanding a dress inspired by Botticelli's *The Birth of Venus*. François was still a philosophy student at the time, but whipped up a flower design based on the bouquets in the painting.

The following year, he was sent off to Los Angeles to learn English. There, he met Lauren Bacall, Claudette Colbert and Gene Tierney, spent a weekend at Lana Turner's house at Palm Springs ("It was her birthday and the cake was in the swimming pool") and was introduced to Tinseltown's most renowned costume designers, including Jean-Louis, Edith Head and Adrian.

Using his father's samples, he set up his own embroidery business in 1948 on Sunset Boulevard and produced dresses for Ava Gardner and Marlene Dietrich.

In 1949 his father died and he was called back to Paris to take over the family business. The early years were not easy, but he was helped by some expert advice from Madeleine Vionnet.

"She was very modest and had this very deep voice," he remembers. "She would say things like, 'What is important is not to please yourself but to always take into account the tastes and personality of each designer.'"

He remembers Schiaparelli as having "a very strong personality and extreme mood swings" and Jacques Fath as being "very funny and amusing".

Fath made the wedding dress for Lesage's sister and shocked her future mother-in-law by turning up to the fitting wearing nothing but cycling shorts and a hat consisting of a bell attached to a spring.

For Fath, Lesage once made a dress which had asparagus fern enclosed between two layers of tulle. "Every hour, it had to be watered," he remembers. "It was a dress which only lasted for one night."

His most amusing creations, however, were for Schiaparelli. She once requested shells and the entire house ate mussels all winter. Other exceptional pieces have included a gown with a 20-metre train, for which the embroidery alone cost US\$1.6 million, and the coronation dress for an African empress, which took 11,000 hours of work.

In the mid-Seventies, he was asked to work on a collection by Calvin Klein. "It was completely crazy," he recalls. "He came to see me in July and everything had to be ready for September. His assistant would fly over on Concorde every two or three days to pick up the latest dresses. In the end, they only presented 10 per cent of them!"

While Lesage was in New York for the collection, Klein asked him to design his logo. Lesage whipped the famous CK design in the plane book to France and pocketed US\$100,000 for his trouble.

Talk about Lesage and you soon run up against even more extraordinary figures. He has, for example,

HAUTE COUTURE

PARIS 1998



Examples of Lesage embroidery shown at the Dior show on Monday

Peter Macdiarmid

50 tons of beads in stock ("We don't have to buy a pearl for the next hundred years") and every year, his embroideresses go through 300kg of them and one hundred million sequins.

Lesage himself never picks up a needle ("I don't even know how to sew a button," he admits), but instead designs two collections a year, which are comprised of between 100 and 200 samples. Each sample represents between 20 and 30 hours work. Each collection costs between £30,000 and £120,000 to produce.

Designers then either choose from his samples, (Lacroix has been known to use up to eight for one dress), or put in personal requests.

"Nothing ever shocks him," declares Gaultier. "I once wanted to give the impression of an embroidered piece of clothing which was

starting to fray. He immediately understood what I wanted, grabbed a hammer and smashed up his embroidery."

The most unusual request came from Yves Saint Laurent. "He once rang me up and said, 'I would like a top which would give the effect of the sky of Paris being reflected in a mirror and then hitting a crystal chandelier,'" recalls Lesage.

John Galiano often pops round to consult the archives. "We have the highest museum of embroidery in the world," says Lesage proudly. "There are 60,000 samples which date back to 1870, John rummages through the boxes and goes away with some Vionnet and some Poiret. Monsieur always insists that things look old." To achieve this, Lesage often rubs dust onto the embroideresses or wets them with alcohol.

After the designers have placed their orders, Lesage's studios work flat out to execute them in just three weeks before the shows.

In 1989, he had 100 employees. Today, there are only 55 and the future seems rather unsure. Lesage admits that he nearly went out of business after the Gulf War and stresses he could not survive another similar crisis.

In an attempt to perpetuate the art of embroidery, he recently opened his own school and remains optimistic that haute couture will exist well into the 21st century.

"I think that we need exceptional things. Dreams are essential. If you stop someone from dreaming, he dies," he insists. "The only reason haute couture may come to an end is if craftsmen like us disappear."

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HAUTE COUTURE

PARIS, JULY 1998

The sublime to the ridiculous

The fur flew at the *couture* collections in Paris. Tamsin Blanchard reports. Photographs by Peter Macdiarmid



Jean Paul Gaultier

If I win the lottery this week, I will not be rushing out to the *couture* houses of Paris clutching my winnings. They can keep their Persian lamb, seal skins, bird of paradise feathers, mink, and chinchilla.

They can keep their fancy dress costumes too. Wealth and good taste seem to lose each other somewhere along the way. If I was to spend upwards of £15,000 on a single outfit, I really would not want to look as though I had pinned my money to my dress.

In Paris this week, there are two schools of *couture*: the sublime and the ridiculous.

Leading the sublime team is Jean Paul Gaultier, a relative newcomer to the *couture* scene, and a designer who uses his atelier to develop his own ideas without having to consider cost or quantity.

If he wants to make a one-off beaded pea coat, or a treacherous coat that unbuttons to form a bustle and train on the back of a cheeky hustler, or an Aran sweater made completely out of tiny cream beads, he can do so at *couture*.

He revels in the joy of being able to create without restriction and the results, since he began his *couture* house two years ago, have been magical.

When the British model Jade Parfitt told him she would not wear fur last season, Gaultier respected her wishes. But it did not stop him from using more furs and rare feathers than ever before.

In the past, he has beaded denim and made it precious. This time his knitted rhinestone jumpers and intricately beaded bras poking out from under a little black dress far outshone his fur linings and fox tail hems.

Before the show, Brigitte Bardot, the animal rights campaigner, rang the designer to ask about his use of fur. But he was undeterred, along with every other designer this week.

The Belgian modernist designer Josephus Thimister showed his second *couture* collection since leaving his post as chief designer at Balenciaga. His *couture* is pure and simple.

Much of the collection was made of calico, with the odd duchess satin lining and ridiculously luxurious 40-ply cashmere thrown in.

The usually strict rules set by the Federation de la Couture in Paris about who can and cannot show their collections during *couture* week have been relaxed for Thimister and there are those who question whether his work is truly *couture*.

His collection has not reached sublime quite yet. To make a collection using calico, the cut and tailoring must be superb. It is a brave thing for a designer to do, but only a master like Yves Saint Laurent should attempt it in public.

But there was something quite charming and uncompromisingly modern about Thimister's collection.

Both sublime and ridiculous were Viktor & Rolf, the Dutch duo of conceptual designers who have shown their collection on the atomic bomb and a 1999 New Year's Eve party. There were shades of performance artist and Lucian Freud model. Leigh Bowery, as cocktail dresses, Pierrot pyjamas and tuxedo trouser suits were given the shape of an atomic mushroom cloud with the help of stuffing at the shoulders (in the form of balloons, Christmas decorations, and streamers).

If *haute couture* is to have a future other than as a marketing tool to sell fragrances (Viktor & Rolf have produced a fragrance without a smell selling in a limited edition) it is as an art form. The Dutch duo's conceptual *couture* would be perfectly at home in an art gallery.

The *couture* houses that have the most to lose, (the most perfumes, cosmetics, sunglasses and handbag licences), showed the collections that were the most ridiculous. They simply get carried away and have lost sight of their few remaining customers. Instead, all they see is pound signs and opportunities for publicity stunts.

Most guilty are Dior and Givenchy and their showmen designers, John Galiano and Alexander McQueen. Both are

immensely talented but their cutting techniques, their way with fabric, their tailoring and their workmanship are drowned by the hysterical theatricals that accompany every collection and which are now looking tired and repetitive.

Karl Lagerfeld at Chanel, however, provided a refined antidote to the overblown theatrics of Givenchy and Dior with a new silhouette that was either gently fitted and flared over the body or was based on long and fluid shifts in luxurious satin crepe. Chanel is one of the few fashion houses that actually makes money from its *couture* clients.

There was a time when Galiano was the romanticist and McQueen the modernist. But this season, their collections have become interchangeable. Both used the same historical references - traditional Native American costume, Holbein's paintings, the Renaissance, dandy highwaymen. It was as if they were both working on the costumes for the same historical drama. And both houses are firm friends with the French Fur Federation.

After the Givenchy show, which opened with a white dressage horse carrying Lady Godiva around the circular catwalk, the president of the Federation declared, "I'm very proud of what Alexander McQueen did with fur."

And at Dior too, there were more furs than in a small farmyard. Galiano already launched his own label fur collection in New York last month and McQueen will no doubt follow soon.

At both Valentino and Versace, there was more fur. And at Versace, there was more of the ridiculous in the form of evening dresses that I would defy even Liz Hurley or Emma Noble to brave.

Most women spend their lives trying to cover up and hide their bottoms. But Donatella Versace, in her first full *haute couture* collection since her brother's death almost a year ago, opted for skirts that were all front and no back.

If you want to do your own Versace, just snip away the back panel of your favourite long skirt and wear it over a pair of white Lycra hotpants.

The Versace original has all the elegance and grace of a carpet tile. Other gems included brillo pad tops made out of oxidised copper wire, more seals, and an evening gown decorated with a whole trail of army combat pockets for the cottonist among the Versace clientele who can find her bus ticket in a series of pockets strategically placed on the small of her back.

But it is unfair to blame Donatella because by all accounts, her Danish apprentice, 25-year-old Jorgen Simonsen who has previously worked at both John Galiano and Givenchy, made a large contribution.

Even more ridiculous than some of the shows and the clothes themselves, however, are the sights you see along the way.

There is the woman who has had so many face lifts, she doesn't know who she is anymore; the hour and 20 minute wait for the Dior show to start because we had to wait for the Diorient Express steam locomotive to travel all of 50 yards into the Gare d'Austerlitz with a feather head-dressed Pocahontas look-alike hanging off the front; the belt by Givenchy with five stuffed budgerigars dangling from it.

Nothing can be more ridiculous, however, than the fact that the skins of half a dozen seals can walk past a *couture* audience on the back of an overheated model without even the batting of an eye.

Jade Parfitt might have made her stand, but any model who wants to stay working at the *couture* shows has little choice. Even Naomi Campbell, the supermodel who posed for PETA (People for Ethical Treatment of Animals) with the slogan "I'd rather go naked than wear fur" will merrily wait along the catwalk in a pair of mink high-beeled shoes.

Fur has become as commonplace and as acceptable as any other luxury fabric, be it seal, Persian lamb, cashmere or silk. And that really is ridiculous.



Viktor & Rolf



Josephus Thimister



Chanel



Valentino



Viktor & Rolf



Givenchy



Christian Lacroix



Versace



Christian Dior

MIDWEEK MONEY

Start your child on the financial merry-go-round



A building society is the first choice for many young savers and their parents, but there are plenty of other options

Nicola Kurtz

AS SOON as you're officially grown up, a host of opportunities beckon. Should you spread your wings and go backpacking around the world, buy a first car or put down roots with a deposit on a flat?

Many parents and grandparents anticipate this first phase of independence by putting money aside for their children, to provide them with a lump sum when they leave school or university. The financial services industry offers specifically designed packages for this phase of life, but it is important to look at the financial gain rather than being distracted by an attractive marketing angle.

"People tend to like products that are labelled for a particular purpose but I'm much more in favour of generic financial planning," says Christine Ross of independent financial advisers Willis National. Invesco markets its Rupert Children's Fund unit trust to adults saving for children. But do the Rupert Bear gifts and regular birthday cards make up for the higher-than-average management charge?

In general, equity unit trusts or investment trusts can be a good choice for regular savings on behalf

Shares, trusts, bonds or banks? Rachel Fixsen on at the best ways to put money aside for your children's future

of a young child. The performance of the underlying shares may fluctuate in the short-term, but since there could be at least ten years before the child reaches 18 or 21, time should iron out the troughs and peaks.

Shares have produced far higher returns in the past than bank deposits or building society savings accounts. Over the 10 years, £1,000 in an average building society account would have grown to £1,802.04 while the same sum invested in the top 100 UK shares would have swelled to £3,245, not including tax or dividends.

Endowment policies are less suitable. The investment would pay tax at an average rate of 20 to 25 per cent within the product, although the child may not be liable to tax on investments when he or she receives the proceeds.

"Endowments are great if they go to maturity, but how many people can really predict how much

they will be able to afford in the future?" says Christine Ross. Grandparents may later find themselves trying to be fair to more grandchildren than they had originally anticipated. With a unit trust savings plan you can alter the amount you pay in.

A protected unit trust such as AIB Govett's UK Equity Safeguard fund or Close UK Escalator 95 fund would be suitable, says Andrew Swallow of Ipswich-based Swallow Financial Planning. These have certain safeguards built in to protect the investment from the worst ravages of a stock market crash.

Unit trusts cannot usually be held by those under the age of 18. An adult would have to open the account in his or her name with the child's initials attached, and act as nominee carrying out the buying and selling of units until the child was old enough to take over.

From April 1999, non-taxpayers will no longer be able to reclaim tax

on dividends. The outcry over this change has come from groups representing pensioners, but this will also affect children's investments.

Friendly societies offer baby bonds, which are similar to endowment policies, but provide tax-free growth. To keep the status tax-free, you are only allowed to invest a maximum of £270 a year or £25 a month. The maximum age limit is 16. But they tend to have high charges, which are levied at the start of the investment's life.

This means if you had to cash the policy in in the early years you might get less back than you had paid in.

Children's Bonus Bonds from National Savings can be taken out for children under 16 up to a maximum of £1,000 per child, in units of £25. On the current issue J, compound interest is six per cent.

Children are entitled to their own personal tax allowance, which is £4,195 for 1998/99. However if a child

earns more than £100 a year in income from money given by a parent, the rest is added to that parent's taxable income. The £100 limit is for each parent. But if a friend of grandparent sets up the investment, the income is regarded as the child's.

When parents invest or save for their children, they often allow for them to gain control of the funds at age 18 or 21. But is this too early? "Not all young people have the experience to deal with larger sums of money at that age," says Christine Ross. If the sum is in a building society account in the child's name, then at age 18 that child has a right to it with or without the parents' consent.

But for larger sums, for example £50,000 and above, an Accumulation and Maintenance Trust could be set up. This costs a few hundred pounds, plus the cost of any professional trustees, although family friends can easily act as trustees. This type of trust enables adults to keep better control of the funds.

Willis National: 0171 488 8383; Swallow Financial Planning: 01473 252 136; National Savings: 0645 645000

Look beyond the High Street

THE FIXERS:

TIM COCKERILL

Sticking to familiar names in the banking world does not always lead to the best returns

MR HICKS came in to see me a couple of weeks ago. He is in many ways a typical investor. In his mid-forties, he has acquired a modest sum of money which has been invested in a number of PEPs and some insurance products. Until his visit to our office, he had always used high street banks and building societies for his financial advice. His decision to come to us was triggered by a recent visit to such an establishment.

He had been into his local bank to try and find something out about the new ISA (Individual Savings Account), what the implications were for his existing PEPs and to review their performance. He said he was dealt with very courteously but thought the information provided was a bit thin on the ground.

Mr Hicks has six general PEPs, and still has his £6,000 allowance for this tax year. This is the chance to take out one final PEP.

When Mr Hicks telephoned I asked him to bring in details of his existing PEPs and other financial arrangements. This way I could recommend a new one to fit in with those he already had and to review his existing PEPs in the hope of achieving better performance.

Mr Hicks was hesitant at first about going into his finances in detail. I said: "The more information we have on your circumstances the better advice we can give - and you never know, we may identify something which you had not considered but is actually quite important." Mr Hicks's investments are all with familiar high street names. Many clients feel comfortable with well-known names, but that does not mean their money is working as hard as it could be.

The performance of these types of PEPs and unit trusts has not always been good and there are many investment houses which can offer better fund managers than the banks or building societies.

Mr Hicks said that he had never really thought about comparing the performance of his PEPs with those of others and did not know where to start. I produced a copy of some figures comparing unit trust performance, (produced by Micropad), and went through the statistics explaining how they worked. Some of his investments fell some way short of others within their respective sectors.

It is possible to transfer from one PEP provider to

another without losing any tax benefits, although watch out for penalties charged for switching. We identified three of his six PEPs as being consistently poor performers and selected alternatives: Royal & Sun Alliance Equity Income, Framlington Extra Income and Jupiter Income.

We then selected a new PEP for the current tax year - we opted for Newton Higher Income. We decided that given Mr Hicks's time horizon was at least five years, there was no problem in making the investment now.

The deadline for PEPs is at the end of this tax year and the market may be higher. It could be lower - predicting the stock market on a short term basis is virtually impossible.

After reviewing his PEPs, I looked further at his circumstances. Mr Hicks is married with two children. His company pension scheme gives him life cover and his mortgage is protected in the event of his or his wife's death.

On the assumption that Mr Hicks was killed in an accident the mortgage would be paid off, and his pension would pay a lump sum of £45,000. This seems like a lot of money but given the two children are aged eight and 10, and his wife only has a part-time job, it would not be long before she faced financial problems.

Mr Hicks increased his and his wife's cover by more than three times. He took out term assurance of £150,000. This is the cheapest form of cover because it pays out only when a person dies within a pre-agreed time limit. Mr Hicks's cover will apply until the children are aged 22. He achieved this for £56 per month through Zurich Life, the cheapest policy for his specific needs. Mr Hicks went away with a better quality portfolio of PEPs and his family's future more secure than it had ever been.

Tim Cockerill is managing director of Whitechurch Securities (0117 944 2266)

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ZURICH MUNICIPAL

The smart money is on clear English

Financial leaflets and guides that you can understand are winning special awards. By John Andrew

THE DRIVE to deliver understandable financial literature, free of misleading gobbledegook, continues - but at a snail's pace.

The Money Management Council, a body funded by the financial industry itself, recently presented the first three of its "Quality Marks" for excellence of information in financial services literature.

The MMC launched its initiative last November. Marie Jennings, the Council's chairman and founder, then commented: "There is no doubt that much financial services literature is confusing, if not frightening. We intend to overcome this with our new Quality Mark scheme."

So far the MMC's efforts are only a partial solution to what is a widespread problem. For now at least, the scheme applies only to generic literature as opposed to marketing material. In other words, a booklet explaining unit trusts will qualify for the Quality Mark, but a brochure promoting a particular range of unit trusts will not.

The material that is submitted is vetted by a committee of six people. No charge is made for the service, which has been financed by an £80,000 donation from eight financial services companies.

A Quality Mark has been awarded to the Association of Unit Trusts and Investments Funds (Autif) for its booklet

The Handbook, which is a simple five-step guide to saving and investment in both unit trusts and investment funds.

The British Bankers Association (BBA) won a mark for its leaflet *Dormant Bank Accounts*, which explains everything from why such accounts exist, to how to

publications which were submitted failed to receive approval.

It was not the standard of the copy that met with disapproval - though the committee was surprised to receive one out-of-date item to be considered for the Quality Mark - but the fact that the items were commercial in

There is no doubt that much financial services literature is confusing

reclaim money. Finally, the Money Advice Service of Bristol City Council Housing Services was awarded a mark for its booklet *How To Deal With Your Debts*.

Only the Autif's handbook deals with financial services. Published in January, the booklet passed through the vetting committee without amendment. Both the BBA leaflet and the Bristol booklet also received the award without the need for alteration.

The vetting process took several weeks, which is longer than the 10 days the MMC originally proposed. Some six

can be bothered to submit to an independent verification of their readability.

The MMC's efforts come as the Government lingers up to launch its replacement for tax-free Peps, the Individual Savings Account, which may come complete with a "benchmark".

There is no denying that although the standard of financial literature has been improving in recent years, some promotional matter does fall below an acceptable standard.

Nevertheless, there is one aspect which has not received the attention in the current debate: the way in which promotional material is created. Most is written by advertising agencies which have no knowledge of the products.

Having been briefed by the product provider, their copywriters produce a text which is normally technically inaccurate. This is corrected by the product providers and the result can be a hotchpotch which, while meeting the regulatory requirements, can have lost its direction.

Possibly the way forward is for the new regulator, the Financial Services Authority, to run compulsory courses for those who prepare promotional material. Tackling the problem at its root would really enhance the quality of the information given to consumers. However, quality marking is certainly a start.

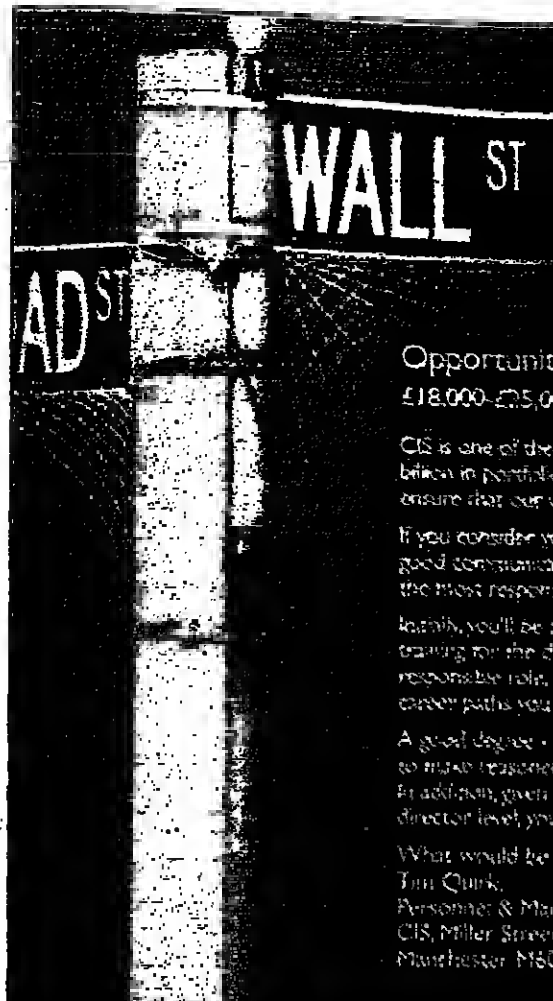
IN BRIEF

LAMBETH BUILDING Society is launching Tessa Farewell, a "last chance" tax-exempt saving scheme with a variable rate of 8.1 per cent. Initial investment is £2,000 or £9,000, depending on whether it is a first Tessa or a follow-on one. Access to the Tessa is available by giving 120 days' notice. Call 0800 225221 for more information.

LEGAL & GENERAL is launching a Growth and Protection Pension Fund, which offers exposure to equity markets while avoiding some of the risks. The fund, which runs for five years, will be linked to a combination of the FTSE 100, German DAX 30, France's CAC 40 and the Swiss SMI share indexes. Telephone 01737 574346 for more information.

FORTMAN BUILDING Society is launching a penalty-free, two-year capped mortgage, charging 6.9 per cent. The cap will remain in place until October 2000. There is no indemnity fee up to a loan-to-value of 90 per cent. More details are available on 01202 392444.

COVENTRY BUILDING Society is increasing rates by 0.25 per cent for its mortgage borrowers, taking the cost of a variable rate loan to 8.95 per cent. But the society says its Privilege Rate, available to all home purchasers after they have been with the building society for five years or more, will be 0.75 per cent lower at 8.2 per cent.



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A good degree (2:1 or better) is essential as is the ability to think laterally and the courage to make reasoned decisions based on your own research and justify them. In addition, given that you're acting as an ambassador for the Society, interacting at director level, you will need communication skills of the highest order.

What would be your choice of stock? - Answer please, together with a full CV, to: Tim Clark, Personnel & Management Services, CIS, Miller Street, Manchester M2 0AL.



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Meetings will be held by appointment only, therefore, should you wish to be considered, please either fax/post our curriculum vitae to the address above marked 'Open Day' or telephone 0171 247 6113 to be put forward to a consultant.

We regret candidates calling in on the day will not be able to be seen.

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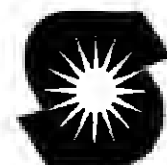
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A formula that would have saved lives on the *Titanic* is now being used to cut construction risks. By Roger Trapp

Paper lifeboat that can save millions

TWENTY YEARS ago, when the then Secretary of State for Education, Shirley Williams, approved plans for a new British Library, the scheme had a projected cost of £74m and was due to be completed by the end of the following decade. By the time it was finally opened by the Queen at the end of last month, more than £500m of government money had been lavished on it – and its management was complaining that it did not have enough money to operate effectively.

How had things gone so far awry? According to the Institute of Actuaries and the Institution of Civil Engineers, the answer is a simple lack of planning. At each stage of the development, it seems, costs and the expected timescale went up. For example, four years after construction began in 1982, the Conservative administration found that the Public Services Agency had underestimated the costs to such an extent that it increased the provision for inflation from £6.3m to £31.6m, while in 1990 it admitted that what had been expected to cost £116m would in fact cost £300m and open three years later than planned.

But, though it provides one of the most graphic examples of out-of-control projects, the British Library is not alone. Britain is littered with large capital projects – notably, the London Underground's Jubilee Line Extension and the Channel Tunnel – that cost more and/or took longer than expected to complete.

Which is why the Institute of Actuaries and the Institution of Civil Engineers have got together. At the heart of the Risk Analysis and Management of Projects (Ramp) method that they launched earlier this month is "a comprehensive framework within which all kinds of risks and uncertainty can be systematically identified, evaluated, reduced and controlled." Crucially, it sets out to deal with risks throughout the history of a project, including operation and eventual close down, as well as planning and construction.

The two organisations also point out that the method has applications beyond the planning of capital works. The collapse of Barings Bank in 1995 would not have happened if managers in the UK had conducted and acted upon a proper risk analysis of the running of their Singapore derivative trading operation, they say. And they add that the proposed

privatisation of Britain's air traffic control – which exposes potential investors to many as yet unknown risks – "would undoubtedly benefit from a Ramp analysis being included in the prospectus".

The approach was born at a conference of actuaries a few years ago, at which Professor Tony Ridley, a past president of the Institution of Civil Engineers, suggested that the two professions work together to come up with a better method of managing large projects. Professor Ridley, who became a member of the working party that produced the Ramp Handbook, said: "The significance of this initiative is that it brings together both engineering and financial expertise in a joint approach to risk." In fact, Prof Ridley and his colleagues on the working

'Ramp' cuts risks by combining the expertise of engineers and actuaries

party say that it is precisely because government departments and businesses alike take an inadequate approach to risk that so many problems arise.

They claim that their methodology is potentially so valuable because it enables managers to understand and place a financial value on the risks in just about every investment project. To illustrate how it works, they set out a hypothetical example of a proposal to build an underground railway where one of the risks identified in a Ramp brainstorming session is a delay in tunnelling that would cost £10m. The project managers would then analyse this to identify two possible causes of such a delay and estimate the chances of each occurring.

Consequently, unforeseen geological conditions might create a 10 per cent chance of occurrence (or 90 per cent chance of non-occurrence) and man-made obstructions might have a 30 per cent chance of occurrence (or 70 per cent chance of non-occurrence). Accordingly, the chance of neither of them happening is 90 per cent x 70 per cent = 72 per cent. So the potential delay due to one cause or another is 28 per cent

and the "expected" cost is 28 per cent of £10m, or £2.8m.

The project managers could then consider investing in a £2m preliminary site survey to avoid the obstacles, and with them a risk worth £2.8m that might cost £10m.

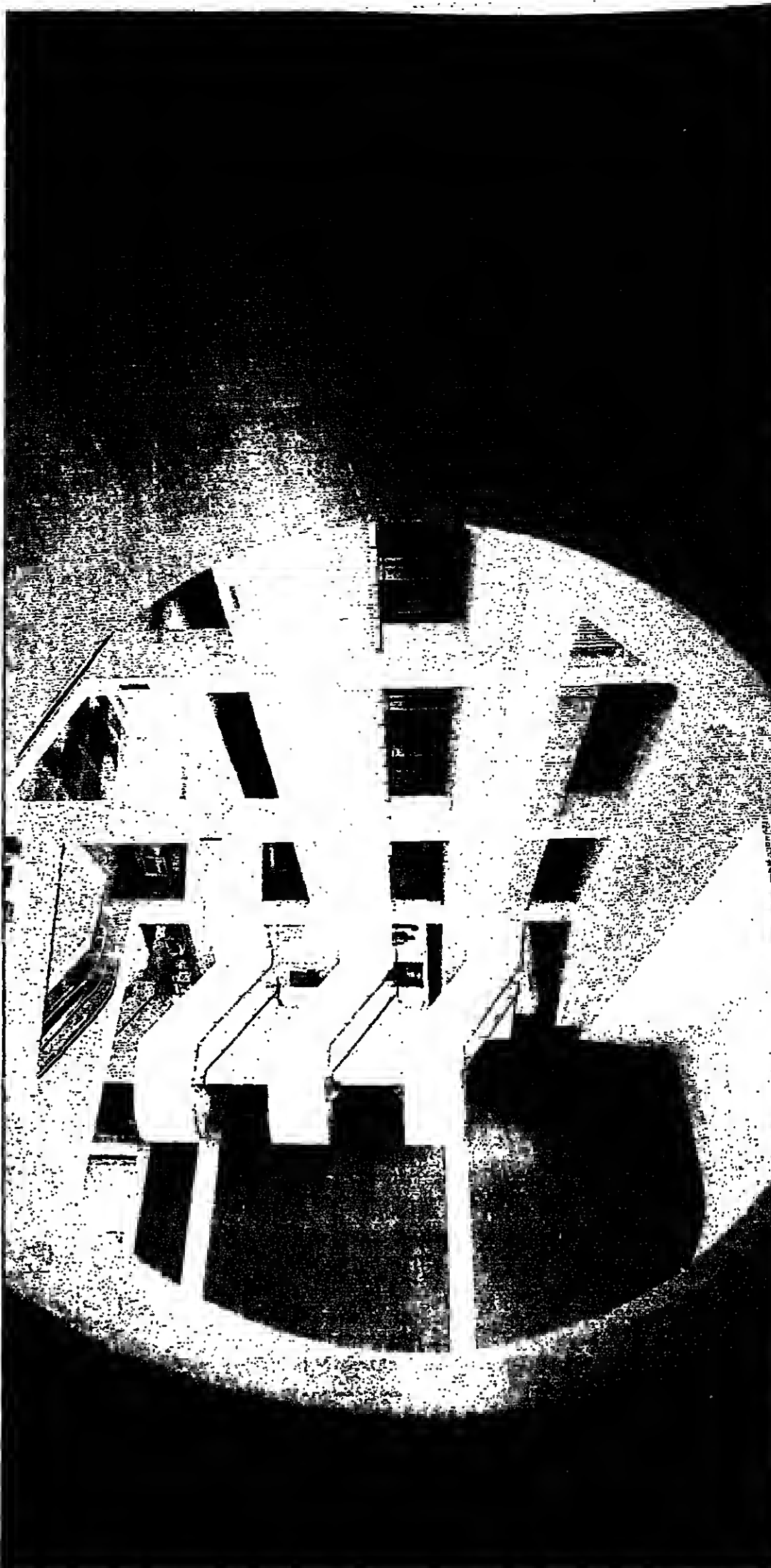
However, as Chris Lewin, the Institute of Actuaries representative who chaired the working party, acknowledges, it is one thing to establish a means of assessing risk and another for managers – whether in government or in business – to take notice. In the case of government departments, which have a poor record of bringing in projects to budget, there has been, he says, an "implicit feeling" that costs will be met.

The setting up of the Private Finance Initiative – under which much of the risk of public-sector projects such as road and hospital building is supposed to be taken up by private companies – is an attempt to deal with this. But, as the Barings Bank episode has suggested, this does not necessarily mean that the issue will go away.

Mr Lewin says there is a lot of complacency, with what is happening often not properly investigated. For example, those associated with the building of the *Titanic* apparently did not allow for the possibility of it striking something and so did not make adequate provision for lifeboats.

Alternatively, managers think that by setting high rates of return for investments they take the risk out of the situation. Not only does this not really deal with the problem, it also creates a situation whereby – as a Confederation of British Industry survey published last week (13 July) demonstrates – companies either invest less than their counterparts elsewhere or, by going for more speculative projects, make poor investment decisions.

With uncertainty about whether the Millennium Dome will open in time, just one of many such issues for managers to consider, Mr Lewin and his colleagues urge them to take note of practice on the railways. Every time there is a serious accident or incident an inquiry is carried out with the aim of finding out exactly what went wrong and thereby putting in place procedures that will reduce still further the risk of a similar occurrence. A key reason, they say, why there are so few accidents in that industry.



The new British Library was going to cost just £74m. The final bill was more than £500m

IN BRIEF

NEARLY 90 per cent of UK finance directors believe that the future of Europe is crucial to the success of their business, says research by Reed Accountancy Personnel in association with *Accountancy Age* magazine. Only 8 per cent felt that UK business could stand on its own, while 6 per cent were neutral. Most FDs felt that mainland Europe provided a large market of growing importance owing to the imminent introduction of the single currency and the economic downturn in the Far East.

THREE OUT of four companies are opposed to government proposals for a local business rate above and beyond the uniform business rate, according to research by property consultants Fuller Peiser, and Nacore, the property occupiers' group. The plans are expected to be fundamental to the forthcoming White Paper on reforming local government. But Paul Danks, of Fuller Peiser, says companies are "deeply sceptical" about the value of an additional tax, fearing that it will lead to a considerable rise in business costs.

THE ASSOCIATION of Chartered Certified Accountants is calling for a detailed review of UK company law to explore and define the role of companies in society. The organisation, which has for several years sponsored annual environmental reporting awards, says in its response to the Department of Trade and Industry's Green Paper on company law that annual general meetings should be expanded to include reports on company performance in such areas as the environment, community issues, and equality of opportunity. Acca also says that any new law must give legal status to electronic communications, such as e-mail and video-conferencing, and take account of auditing services such as "Web trust assurance".

LEEDS BUSINESS School has teamed up with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Education and Training Centre to launch an MA in finance and accounting in the south of England. The course, it seems, has have worked well in the north of England and also overseas; it offers qualified accountants "a pragmatic fast track to a masters qualification".

KIDSONS IMPEY, the second-tier firm planning a merger with Moores Rowland, has appointed several new partners. The firm indicates that this strengthening of the partnership base is in response to the continuing strong business environment, but the new partners' expertise is largely in insolvency, forensic accounting and corporate recovery.

Accountants take note: three in to one does go

The proposed merger of the accountancy institutes seems the rational way forward, despite opposition. By Paul Gosling

ACCOUNTANTS ARE not easily hooded, but the profession was taken by surprise last week. The proposed merger of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (Acca) with the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (Cima) and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (Cipfa) had been kept well and truly under wraps, defying commentators who poked at the need for rationalisation of the institutes, but who believed that gos would prevent any further proposals coming forward for years.

The deal is by no means done as yet. The first stumbling block may be the hardest to overcome – approval by the members of all three bodies. Acca has written to the 120,000 members of the three institutes asking them to give outline support to the deal within the next 10 weeks, before general councils get together to ratify the details.

Acca's actions have outraged Cipfa and Cima, who say they were in general terms of Acca's proposal, but do not support it and were aware that their members were to be directly mailed over their heads. Cipfa's David Adams described Acca's behaviour as "irrelevant, inept, ingenuous, divisive and dangerous". Cima says that the manner "Acca's approach undermines trust."

But Acca is confident that where members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales have in the past been sniffy about combining with other institutes they appear to think below them, the three institutes proposed for merger on this occasion will all gain.

A new merger initiative had been in the wind, for those with a good sense of smell. Last month, David

Adams, the chief executive of the Cipfa, said that he would support a "merger of equals" if a proposal came forward. And Peter Layne, incoming president of Cima, had once again spoken about the clear need for rationalisation of the six existing institutes. (Acca says it expects the two smaller bodies, the institutes of Scotland and Ireland, to now begin merger discussions with the ICAEW.)

"We have long thought some restructuring was the way forward," says Michael Foulds, president of Acca. "We believe this would deliver significant benefits for the memberships, for the public interest, and in dealing with government." He adds: "There is a resonance from the other two institutes."

This latest proposal is being made only in Acca's name, but has the co-operation of Cima and Cipfa. "We have had outline discussions with appropriate people in the other two bodies," explains Mr Foulds. "We haven't

had discussions at a detailed level. The experience of previous initiatives has been of councils working parties spending hours, days, weeks and months negotiating over detail, which is wheeled out to the members who then said no. We wished to do this differently, to get a sense of the memberships' views, before we hurry

ourselves in the detailed debate." One factor that Acca is determined to emphasise is that this would be, in Mr Adams' words, "a merger of equals", not a takeover by Acca. The new body would have a new name, and a new single qualification, though with alternative specialisms of audit, business and public sector. Mr Foulds says that while Acca – the second largest institute in the UK – is the biggest of the three, they are equal in standing. "We have all got fairly similar origins as professional bodies. There can only be one reason for doing this, and that is to ensure that the members have a strong, in-

fluential set of arrangements for the benefit of the members."

The new body would be larger than the ICAEW, and consideration of a further merger with it is off the agenda. "Our strong impression is that it will be very difficult to find terms that I think Acca, Cima and Cipfa would find agreeable with the other bodies," says Mr Foulds.

Acca says that the rationalisation of the Big 6 firms down to the Big 5, with possible further mergers, has not been a factor in Acca's proposal. But, adds Anthea Rose, Acca's chief executive, it is the same pressures of the global market that are driving Acca's initiative as well as the firms' consolidation. An important element of any deal for Acca is that the new body would be the third largest in the world, strengthening the ability of it to support members worldwide.

Mr Foulds talks of it as a "fast track" towards merger. Assuming a positive response from the three memberships, amalgamation could be completed by the end of next year. There are, though, the three annual general meetings to win over as well, and approval to be obtained from the Privy Council, the guardian of the chartered status of the institutes.

Acca does not shrink from taking the role of strong advocate for rationalisation. Mr Foulds says: "There is a powerful case for what we are putting forward, and I would urge members of all three bodies to consider this seriously, to be supportive. If you take the individual strengths and make them collective strengths, the services members would get from their divisions; the influence of the body and its representative value to its members; then I think the benefits would be very great."



According to chief executive Anthea Rose (left), the same market pressures that have taken the Big 6 firms down to the Big 5 are driving Acca's proposal

TMT – the explosive new excuse for men

A CHAIR comes flying over our heads and through the window, which, as it is closed at the time, smashes into tiny pieces. Luckily, Jane and I are far enough away to escape the flying glass, but this is a timely reminder of the reason why I don't usually hang around in City pubs on Friday nights: too many fights.

"Look," I say to Jane, "there's even something about it in the *Standard*. Assaults in the Square Mile rose last year by 15 per cent." Apparently it's being blamed on people having too much money.

Jane laughs derisively at this suggestion. "Nonsense," she replies, "it's much simpler than that. The poor lads are at the mercy of their hormones. It's just TMT."

"What?" I say. "TMT?" Jane repeats carefully, as if talking to an idiot. "Too Much Testosterone."

I laugh, of course. Trust Jane to come up with a witty explanation that's entirely plausible. "So," I say between chuckles, "does that mean it's 'that time of the month', then?" "It certainly is," Jane says. "They've just been paid. That huge wodge of money zapping into their bank accounts has given them a massive power rush, and now they feel like demigods."

Looking round the fake oak and stained-glass partition to the other end of the bar, I fail to see any demigods. What I do see is three flushed and flailing men in sharp suits being held

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back from each other by members of staff and assorted bystanders. Every so often one of them will make a lunge for freedom, hurling abuse and punches at anyone nearby. Fortunately for all concerned, that wicked demon alcohol has been working its black magic. No sooner is the man free of his captors than he's crumpling towards the floor, his balance and ability to stand having given out altogether.

"Will you stop gawping," Jane says crossly, mostly because she doesn't have her contact lenses in and can't really see what's going on. So I reluctantly turn back to the table and we try to carry on putting the world to rights over vodka and tonic.

Unfortunately, the fracas in the far corner is just as noisy as before; the legs may have given way, but the lungs haven't. I don't know about Jane, but I am finding the brawlers' slurred taunts of "Come on! Have a go if you think you're hard enough!" pretty distracting, and that's not the half of it.

For, though it's impossible to

identify, through the slurring, most of what the lads are saying, especially if it's in an Essex accent, those short, sharp swear words come through loud and clear. Especially the one beginning with "c".

"Let's get out of here," I say to Jane. "It's all right for you; no one swears in your office. But I get enough of this at work."

Jane agrees, and we're just gathering our possessions for a speedy departure, when the police arrive.

Well, we have to stay to see what happens, don't we? So we edge a little closer, mainly on account of Jane's short-sightedness, obviously, and have the thrill of watching three demigods turn before our eyes into contrite small boys as the handcuffs snap on. The police look bored by the whole business, as if they've seen too much of this kind of thing recently, so it is a rather subdued procession that heads out of the door towards the flashing blue lights.

"Well, that's over," I say, turning back towards Jane. But she has a strange expression on her face, sort of shocked, so I have to shake her a bit and say her name a few times before she snaps out of it.

"I'm sorry," she says shakily. "The third man, the one who was shouting the loudest. My cousin Jonny. Not from Essex at all."

Which is fine, because that means it wasn't a brawl, just high spirits after all.

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My boss: the man in the blond wig

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MANDY BLACK IS PA TO RICHARD HUNTINGFORD, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF CHRYSALIS RADIO

I'VE ALWAYS been interested in music; I think it's in my blood. My father worked as a producer for Radio 2 and my very first job was also for the BBC, working in the popular music library. I also spent some time at HMV assisting the manager of the flagship store and looking after the visiting celebrities, including Bob Geldof, Tina Turner and Terence Trent D'Arby.

It was through my love of music that I came to work at Chrysalis back in 1991, so it was ironic that just a few months after I joined the company they sold off their share in Chrysalis records.

After three years PA'ing for the assistant company secretary, I left to work for a blue chip company in the City, with the aim of furthering myself. But I just didn't fit in; so when I was told that Richard Huntingford - who was then corporate development director - needed a PA, I went back to Chrysalis.

Richard was charming but scary, and I was in awe of him, since it was my first proper high-level PA job. Al-

though he trained as an accountant, he doesn't fit the stereotype at all; he is out-going, and appreciates that people like to have a life away from work. He spends a lot of time travelling, so I had my work cut out organising his itinerary, as well as the usual PA duties.

With several successful radio stations already in the North and West of England, we decided to apply for a licence to run a music radio station in London. We put a lot of late nights into drawing up the application, and on the day that we were due to get the reply Richard and I emptied all the post bags in the mail room and searched for the letter on our hands and knees. I was the first to find it, but when I opened the letter I couldn't believe what I was seeing. I passed it to Richard who went absolutely mad, hugging me, whooping and then opening a bottle of champagne for an early-morning celebration.

The next stage was to set up the station itself, and suddenly the staff numbers swelled from two to 20. It

was a manic time, and work changed a lot as DJs, producers and sound engineers began to join the company - but I loved every minute of it. DJs tend to build up a special relationship with listeners, and it was exciting to come into contact with heroes of mine such as David Jensen and Jono and Kara from The Morning Crew.

All the people who came to work for us were creative and fun, and able to be themselves. I discovered that Richard is also quite funky himself, and enjoys the showbiz element to his job. He likes wearing brightly coloured shirts and jazzy ties, and genuinely loves the music that we play. The launch of Heart 106.2 in London was the highest moment of both our careers.

One of my favourite tasks is organising the office parties. The last party we had was a fancy dress Christmas bash where you had to come dressed as a musical character. Richard's disguise was so good that I walked straight past him. But on closer inspection I



Mandy Black and her boss Richard Huntingford: 'He's quite funky, and enjoys the showbiz element to his job' Emma Boam

recognised him as the man dressed in a silver glam rock outfit, stack heels and a blond wig. I was dressed as the singing nun, complete with a blow-up air guitar and full make-up, and we had a good boogie together that night. I came to the conclusion that we are both party animals at heart.

There was only one time when Richard and I got close to falling out and that was when I had my nose pierced. He didn't say anything to

me, he just gave me a very disapproving look. Eventually I asked whether he had a problem with my nose, while observing that I hadn't noticed anything in the contract which prevented piercings.

He sniffed, and grudgingly said that perhaps it might look OK with the right outfit. Funnily enough, a few months later I overheard him telling a colleague that if we achieved our listener figures target he would get his ear pierced too.

Now that we've gone well beyond our target I keep joking with him that he's due to have more than just one piercing.

My boyfriend teases me quite a bit about my passion for Seventies and Eighties music. I want to listen to the Bee Gees on Heart when he wants to listen to one of his endless Manic Street Preachers CDs. Occasionally my colleagues have tried to sing Barry Manilow's "Mandy" at me, but I quickly silence them with

the line: "Excuse me, but I am always Miss Black to you."

The most unusual thing I've ever done for Richard was to buy a pet iguana for his daughter's birthday, which involved spending months researching reptiles. My problem is that when I am asked if I can do something I will say "of course" before thinking about the implications, because I like to think that I can do anything.

INTERVIEW BY KATIE SAMPSON

There are some jobs only a PhD is qualified to do...

YOUR USUAL temp - my flatmate - is on holiday. She's always complaining that she hasn't got any money, but she's got enough for a week in Lanzarote, so it can't be that bad. Me, on the other hand: I've got no chance of going anywhere this year. In fact, I'll be lucky to cover the rent at the end of the month.

My name is Craig, by the way. If you read this column regularly you may have come across some pretty snide comments about me which caused some coldness between us... only we're both too skint to move, so we had to "kiss and make up" in the end.

I wasn't sure what to write about, but she said "Just tell them about the worst job you've

ever had", picked up her suitcase and left.

That's a tall order. My flatmate goes on about the employment market, but at least she's a girl and can type. I have a degree in philosophy from Bristol, but as far as the job market is concerned, I am unskilled labour. And since they took me off the jobseeker's allowance, I've had to seek whatever job I can find.

I have done most of the obvious ones. I've been a bike courier: £2.50 a package, whether it's Oxford Street to Tottenham Court Road or Edgware to Croydon; soaking wet, or choking on carbon monoxide. I gave that up when I lost my bike to a police car on

Camden High Street. I've been a post office sorter: paper cuts, bomb scares, a unionised staff who treated casuals like blacklegs. I've worked the warehouse at a department store, but couldn't take the stress: the other guys were walking out with televisions, microwaves, anything they could lay their hands on, and I was convinced that as the new one I'd be the first to get fingered.

I've been a runner on a building site, which meant mostly carrying heavy things up ladders in hallstons. And despite all the safety regulations, I'd seriously advise you to cross the road whenever you find yourself approaching scaffolding. I've been a waiter in the



THE TEMP

restaurant down the road: they've got good reviews in the restaurant guides, but working there is a bit like making Teletubbies dolls for the Christmas market. He paid £20 a night, plus tips. Only, he said I should work two weeks without

because I had no experience. Then he extended it by another two. And then another. The staff walked out in week five when we worked out that he'd pulled the same scam on all of us and was keeping the entire pot for himself. They did roughly 800 covers a week at £30-plus a head; he must have made at least £12,000, cash in hand, in the time I was there.

But there is one job that stands head and shoulders above the others, and it's the one I'm doing now: hospital portering. My flatmate has worked on the paper side of the NHS, but have you ever thought about what porters do for a living? Here's a rundown of what I have been up to in the

last few weeks. I've mopped the floor in the geriatric ward 16 times after old-lady accidents. I've mopped the floor in maternity after unexpected water-breakages. I've mopped the floor, seats and walls in casualty after someone dumped off a bike courier they'd run over at the Waterloo roundabout. I've swept up entire dustpanfuls of dried skin in dermatology (those psoriasis don't half flake), and entire bin-liners of old corns in chiropody. I've wheeled shrieking children into surgery and silent corpses out.

And then there's the biopsies. Last week, I was passing surgery when a nurse popped her head round the door, hailed me and handed me a covered

bucket. "Can you take this down to pathology?" she said.

Pathology is in the basement; down a corridor, through reception, into the lift, back up a corridor past the kitchens. The bucket contained something that slopped from one side to another like custard when you tipped it. Now, I'm normally quite tough: don't vomit at the sight of blood, can eat off a flat sort of thing, but this was freaking me out. I got to pathology, knocked on the door and the big boss came out: a tiny, little Sri Lankan woman, hands like butterfingers, cut-glass accent.

"Ah," she said, putting her hands out for the bucket. "The Simpson left breast. We've been waiting for that."

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NEW FILMS

THE THIEF (15)

Director: Pavel Chukhrai
Starring: Misha Philipchuk, Vladimir Mashkov
The Thief is a familiar story, told with competence, but it's only the passionate acting which makes the film special. In his investigation into the psyche of a six-year-old Russian boy in the aftermath of the Second World War, writer-director Pavel Chukhrai tries for that brand of unforced poetry pioneered by Louis Malle and by Tarkovsky. Unfortunately, he doesn't quite pull it off. Chukhrai does too much of the work for his audience; his film is most striking when it rests on intuition, such as when it is building the relationship between the child, Sanya (Misha Philipchuk), and his mother's lover, Tolyan (Vladimir Mashkov), who wears a soldier's uniform but carries a kit-bag bulging with looted crockery and cutlery. He's the film's thief, and the suggestion is that he has fished more than just other people's goblets: he's stolen the heart of Katya (Ekaterina Radnikova) and the innocence of her little boy, too. Chukhrai lets the story unfold until the final 15 minutes, when it seems to go disastrously wrong. He tries to tie up the loose ends, but some of us like to have them flapping around in the memory. **CW: Renoir**

THE LITTLE MERMAID (U)

Director: John Musker and Ron Clements
Re-released for the summer holidays by Disney, this film provides an odd, unexpected treat. Bright and breezy in style, even its songs are good. **CW: Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End**

BARNEY'S GREAT ADVENTURE (U)

Director: Steve Gomer
Starring: Barney the Dinosaur
Feature-length exploits for the big, jolly dinosaur whose blend of nursery rhymes, day-glo colours and moral lessons make him ideal for the pre-school viewer - but an endurance test for anyone else. **CW: Hammersmith Virgin, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero**

LIFE IS ALL YOU GET (18)

Director: Wolfgang Becker
Starring: Jürgen Vogel, Ricky Tomlinson
Beginning with a riot in Berlin and a man discovering he may be HIV-positive, this film really takes you by surprise. In this gritty and absurd film, the drama is never diminished by the humour, and the comedy has real poignancy. **CW: ABC Swiss Centre, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Minima**

THE GIRL WITH BRAINS IN HER FEET (15)

Director: Roland Emmerich
Starring: Matthew Broderick, Jean Reno
New York is in turmoil. People are running through the streets screaming, and though the police are desperately trying to restore calm, even they are wondering if the Big Apple will ever recover. Yes, Tina Brown has left the building. Oh, and there's also a giant lizard rampaging through the streets, lurching on skyscrapers. But never mind all that: what next for Tina? The team of Roland Emmerich (director and co-writer) and Dean Devlin (producer and co-writer) are generally very adept at constructing enjoyable adventures with a B-movie taste for fun (*Stargate* and *Independence Day*), but their touch evades them on *Godzilla*. The script tosses in characters and conflicts which aren't followed through, and

it doesn't take long for it all to descend from a nuclear-age parable to a numb, dumb succession of chases.

It's hard to imagine who might get a kick out of *Godzilla*, except for New Yorkers who like to imagine their city starting again from scratch. **CW: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Rio Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road**

THE LITTLE MERMAID (U) Animated Feature
Director: John Musker and Ron Clements
Re-released for the summer holidays by Disney, this film provides an odd, unexpected treat. Bright and breezy in style, even its songs are good. **CW: Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End**

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Ryan Gilbey

GENERAL RELEASE

CITY OF ANGELS (12)

Nicolas Cage plays an angel deciding whether or not to exchange his celestial immortality for domestic bliss with the mortal Meg Ryan in the American take on Wim Wenders's *Wings of Desire*. **West End: ABC Baker St, ABC Tottenham Court Rd, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End**

DREAM WITH THE FISHERS (18)

Takes a suicidal loser and a junkie with a month to live and give them some time together before an inevitable tearful farewell. Perhaps it's the realisation that *Dream with the Fishes* could so easily have been a nightmare that makes its success seem deserved. **West End: Metro**

GIRLS' NIGHT (15)

Tearjerker which stars Brenda Blethyn as a cancer-sufferer who jets off to Las Vegas for a last holiday with her sister-in-law, played by Julie Walters. Initially bubbly, the film becomes grossly manipulative. **CW: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End**

THE GIRL WITH BRAINS IN HER FEET (15)
Jaunty take on the rites of passage genre. The lively script is complemented by the sparkling performance of Joanna Ward as the film's heroine. **West End: Rio Cinema**

GREASE (20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION) (PG)
What fun there can be had from a second viewing of this 20 year old nostalgia film is mostly due to John Travolta's manic performance as the greased up hero. **CW: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero**

GURU IN SEVEN (18)
A thoroughly dismal, witless British comedy which comes off like an Asian version of the Sixties classic, *Alfie*. **CW: ABC Piccadilly, Virgin Trocadero**

KISS OR KILL (18)

Australian road movie come serial killer drama about a couple of scam merchants. Pretentious in some places, it still manages to be agreeably nasty in others. **CW: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town**

KURT & COURTNEY (15)

Compulsive documentary directed by Nick Broomfield, investigating the death of the Nirvana frontman, Kurt Cobain, and the conspiracy theories which emerged in the wake of the event. **CW: Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Warner Village West End**

THE LAST TIME I COMMITTED SUICIDE (15)
A dip into the life of the Beat icon Neal Cassady, played by Thomas Jane. There's lots of fast cutting and theatrical lighting, but the film just amounts to the same old Beat clichés. **West End: ABC Piccadilly**

LOVE AND DEATH ON LONG ISLAND (15)
Comedy starring John Hurt and Jason Priestley, concerned with the relationship between art and life. Writer-director Richard Kwietniowski takes great care in tracing the areas where they overlap. **CW: Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Gate Notting Hill, Metro, Renoir, Richmond Picturehouse, Rio Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Haymarket**

MAD CITY (15)

Dustin Hoffman plays a reporter caught in a hostage situation in a museum, where a disgruntled ex-employee, played by John Travolta, has produced a gun in an attempt to get his job back. The film becomes a series of reflex attacks on the moral bankruptcy of television and, by extension, the late 20th century. **CW: ABC Baker Street, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End**

MIMIC (15)

Mira Sorvino is a doctor who combats a virus that's sweeping New York by developing a rival cockroach species in this ingenious science-fiction horror fable. **CW: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End**

MOJO (15)

Set in a mythologised 1950s Sobo inhabited by petty gangsters, *Mojo* never entirely escapes its theatrical roots. But it concentrates on sexual tension in a way which American crime movies generally shy away from. **CW: Plaza, Warner Village West End**

THE OBJECT OF MY AFFECTION (15)
Romantic comedy in which Paul Rudd confounds his fastmate Jennifer Aniston's dreams of weddings and joint burial plots by turning out to be gay. **CW: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea**

PALMETTO (15)

Ironic film noir Harry Barber (Woody Harrelson) is the ex-con who gets mixed up with a pair of duplicitous women. **CW: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End**

PONETTE (15)

French tale of a four-year-old girl (Victoire Thivisol) whose mother dies in a car accident. The young Thivisol is superb, yet it's hard to deny discomfort at watching one so young portray emotion this raw and primal. **CW: Curzon Mayfair, Metro**

SAVIOR (18)

Politically inept war film set in Bosnia. Dennis Quaid stars as a man who loses his family in a Paris bomb blast and avenges their deaths by gunning down a row of Muslims at prayer before becoming a hired killer. **West End: Virgin Haymarket**

SLING BLADE (15)

Intelligent and unsettling drama starring writer-director Billy Bob Thornton as a mentally disabled man who is released into the outside world after spending his life in an institution. **CW: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket**

SIX DAYS, SEVEN NIGHTS (12)

Implausibly contrived romantic comedy in which Harrison Ford plays a boozey pilot who crash-lands with a New York magazine editor (Anne Heche) on a remote island. **CW: Barbican Screen, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea**

STIFF UPPER LIPS (15)

Spoof of the Merchant/Ivory movies from one of the talents responsible for *Leon the Pig Farmer*. **West End: Plaza, Virgin Chelsea**

THE TASTE OF CHERRY (PG)

Joint winner of last year's Palme d'Or and a hypnotic and moving experience. **West End: Renoir**

TOUCH (15)

Paul Schrader's adaptation of Elmore Leonard's novel turns a breezy satire into a rather heavy-handed investigation into religious conviction. **CW: Plaza**

THE WAR AT HOME (15)

Tale of a traumatised Vietnam veteran on his return home to Texas adapted from James Duff's Broadway play. **Homefront. CW: Plaza**

THE WEDDING SINGER (12)

See *The Independent Recommends* above. **CW: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Phoenix Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Warner Village West End**

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS



Film John Wrathall

THE FIRST vehicle for *Saturday Night Live* veteran Adam Sandler to make much of an impression in the UK (where it has just passed the \$10 million barrier), *The Wedding Singer* (left) reveals an unexpected talent for romantic comedy in a comedian previously known for knuckle-headed slapstick. Not that there's anything that sophisticated about his paeon to the bad taste of 1985, but Sandler and Drew Barrymore make an oddly winning screen couple, and the showband cover versions of Eighties hits are a hoot. **On general release**
Two grandparents journey to Tokyo to visit their family, and come to appreciate the emotional gulf that now separates them from their children. There's not much more to *Tokyo Story* than that, but if you can adjust to the sedate, defiantly low-key style of director Yasujiro Ozu, this 1953 classic is an absorbing and powerfully moving experience - and the perfect introduction to the work of the Japanese master whose work is being celebrated at the National Film Theatre this month. **NFT: London SW1 (0171-325 3332), today at 6.10pm, tomorrow at 8.20pm**

Theatre David Benedict

JAMES BURROWS directed *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* and co-created *Cheers*, so it's absolutely no surprise that he works as many laughs as he does from the classic Thirties comedy, *The Man Who Came to Dinner* (right). Chicago's superb Steppenwolf company has a ball spitting out the hilarious one-liners, and the farce plot grows tighter and funnier by the minute. **The Barbican, London EC1 (0171-638 8891), closes Sat**
The unassuming James Macdonald is finally receiving long-overdue recognition as one of the finest directors around. His striking production of Roberto Zucco is a highlight of the RSC season. **The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon (01789 256633)**



Classical Andrew Clarke

WE'VE HEARD little new from the French composer Henri Dutilleul since his last symphony - the third - so the UK premiere of his latest piece at the Proms should prove quite an event. It also marks something of a departure from the gorgeously realised soundworld of this elusive artist. Titled *The Shadows of Time*, the work sets extracts from *The Diary of Anne Frank* and swaps his usual highly colourful style - which has earned him a reputation as a worthy successor to Ravel and Roussel - for a more sombre palette. The BBC Philharmonic, conducted by Jan Pascal Tortelier (right), has made quite a name for itself in this repertoire, so expect equally insightful readings of Poulenc's *Gloria*, and Tchaikovsky's searingly tragic *Symphony No. 5*. Soprano Alison Hagley, the treble Edward Burrows, and the combined forces of the London Philharmonic Choir and the Chester Festival Chorus help out. **Royal Albert Hall, London SW7 (0171-589 8212) 7.30pm**



Pop Tim Perry

THE BARBICAN'S "Sing it Loud!" series gets quite a scoop with the only UK appearances this year by the "Godfather of Soul", James Brown (below). At 65, it remains to be seen if he can still get on the "good foot", but with the back-up of a 15-piece band and dancers, these gigs promise showmanship to the max. **Barbican, London EC2 (0171-638 8891) today and tomorrow, 7.30pm**
Getting even further back to the roots is "The Legends of Rock'n'Roll", a triple-header with Chuck Berry, Little Richard and Jerry Lee Lewis. Berry and Richard should run through their hits capably, but Lewis, still the wild cannon after all these years, could produce just about anything on the night. **Wembley Arena, London (0181-902 0902) 7.30pm**



CINEMA

WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET

(0171-395 9772) @ Baker Street
Godzilla 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.05pm
City 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.25pm
Sliding Doors 8.10pm

ABC PANTON STREET

(0171-390 0631) @ Piccadilly Circus
As Good As It Gets 2pm, 5pm, 8pm
The Big Lebowski 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm
Seven Nights 12.50pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 9pm
Sling Blade 1.40pm, 4.00pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm
Washington Square 2.40pm, 5.15pm, 7.40pm, 10.15pm

ABC PICCADILLY

(0171-437 3561) @ Piccadilly Circus
Guru In Seven 3.25pm, 8.25pm
Martha - Meet Frank, Daniel & Laurence 1.25pm, 6.10pm
Mrs Brown 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE

(0171-836 6279) @ Leicester Square
Godzilla 6pm, 9.10pm
The Object of My Affection 6.45pm, 9.30pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 7pm, 9.35pm
The Wedding Singer 7.15pm, 9.45pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE

(0171-439 4470) @ Leicester Square
Deconstructing Harry 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Life Is All You Get 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
My Son the Fanatic 6pm
Shall We Dance? 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
The Taste of Cherry 1.40pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD

(0171-686 6148) @ Tottenham Court Road
City of Angels 1.10pm, 6.35pm
Godzilla 12.30pm, 3.25pm, 6.20pm, 9.15pm
The Object of My Affection 1.50pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.25pm

BARBICAN SCREEN

(0171-382 7000) @ Moorfields/Barbican
The General Tue/Thu 6pm
Love and Death On Long Island 6.40pm
Point Blank 6.15pm
Sling Blade 6pm, 8.40pm

CHelsea CINEMA

(0171-351 3742) @ Sloane Square
Love and Death On Long Island 2.20pm, 4.25pm, 6.35pm, 8.45pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE

(0171-498 2242) @ Clapham Common
Godzilla 12noon, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm
Life Is All You Get 7pm, 9.30pm
The Little Mermaid 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm
Sling Blade 3.45pm, 5.45pm, 7.45pm, 9.45pm

CURZON MAYFAIR

(0171-369 1720) @ Green Park
Thematic 2.30pm, 7.30pm

ELPHANT & CASTLE CORONET

(0171-703 4968) @ Elephant & Castle
Godzilla 2.30pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm
Mad City 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE

(0171-437 1234) @ Leicester Square
Godzilla 11.20am, 2.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.40pm
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 12.40pm, 3.10pm, 6.20pm, 9.30pm
Sling Blade 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.40pm

GATE NOTTING HILL

(0171-727 4043) @ Notting Hill Gate
Love and Death On Long Island 1.55pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN

(0870-9070718) @ Hammersmith
Barney's Great Adventure 12.30pm, 2.20pm, 4.15pm
Godzilla 12noon, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm
The Little Mermaid 12noon, 2pm, 4.10pm
Mad City 6.15pm, 9pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 6pm, 8.30pm
The Wedding Singer 8.45pm

METRO

(0171-437 0757) @ Piccadilly
Circus/Leicester Square Love and Death On Long Island 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm
Posette 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

CURZON MINEMA

(0171-365 1723) @ Angel/Courtyard
Life Is All You Get 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET

(0171-727 6705) @ Notting Hill Gate
Godzilla 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN

(0181-315 4229) @ Camden Town
Godzilla 1.45pm, 5pm, 8.15pm
Kiss Dr K 3.20pm, 8.40pm
The Object of My Affection 12.45pm, 6.05pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 12.50pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 9pm
Sling Blade 1.40pm, 4.00pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm
The Wedding Singer 12.05pm, 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm

ODEON HAYMARKET

(0181-315 4212) @ Piccadilly Circus
The Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

ODEON KENSINGTON

(0181-315 4214) @ High Street
Kensington City of Angels 7pm, 9.40pm
Godzilla 6pm, 9.10pm
The Object of My Affection 6.45pm, 9.30pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 7pm, 9.35pm
The Wedding Singer 7.15pm, 9.45pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH

(0181-315 4216) @ Marble Arch
City of Angels 6.35pm, 9.20pm
Godzilla 11.30am, 1.15pm, 2.40pm, 5.05pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm, 9pm
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 12.15pm, 3.20pm, 6.15pm, 9.05pm
The Little Mermaid 12.15pm, 2.25pm, 4.30pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm

ODEON MEZZANINE

(0181-315 4215) @ Leicester Square
As Good As It Gets 5.45pm, 8.25pm
Point Blank 5.30pm, 8.55pm
The Replacement Killers 6.35pm, 8.45pm
Scream 2 6.05pm, 8.35pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE

(0181-315 4220) @ Swiss Cottage
The Big Lebowski 12.35pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.35pm
City of Angels 12.35pm, 3.05pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm
Godzilla 1pm, 3pm, 5pm
Point Blank 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 11pm, 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 11pm
Sling Blade 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 11pm

ODEON WEST END

(0181-315 4221) @ Leicester Square
The Object of My Affection 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

PHOENIX CINEMA

(0181-444 6789) @ East Finchley
Live Flesh 4.15pm, 6.45pm
Washington Square Tue 4pm
The Wedding Singer 6.40pm

PLAZA

(0171-437 1234) @ Piccadilly Circus
Deep Impact 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm
Godzilla 1.15pm, 4.25pm, 6pm, 8.10pm, 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.20pm
Touch 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm, 10.50pm

RENOIR

(0171-837 8402) @ Russell Square
Love and Death On Long Island 2.20pm, 4.25pm, 6.35pm, 8.45pm
The Thief 2.35pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

RIEZY CINEMA

(0171-737 2121/733 2229) @ Ritz
The Big Lebowski 9.25pm
Godzilla 3pm, 6.15pm, 9pm
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 4.45pm, 7.35pm
Kurt & Courtney 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 7pm, 9.10pm
Love and Death On Long Island 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm
Godzilla 11.10am, 12noon, 2.40pm, 5.20pm, 7.40pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm, 1.40pm, 4

HOLLOWAY

ODEON (0181-315 4213) Archway
Barney's Great Adventure 1.15pm,
2.55pm, 4.55pm City of Angels 1.05pm,
3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm Godzilla
11.40am, 2.05pm, 2.35pm, 5pm,
5.30pm, 7.55pm, 8.25pm The Little
Mermaid 12.15pm, 2pm, 3.50pm Mad
City 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 9.15pm
Seven Nights 6.35pm, 8.50pm Sliding
Doors 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.45pm,
9.05pm

ILFORD

ODEON (0181-315 4223) Gants
Hill Barney's Great Adventure 12pm,
1.50pm, 4pm City of Angels 6pm,
8.40pm Godzilla 11.10am, 2.10pm,
5.10pm, 8.10pm The Little Mermaid
11.50am, 1.50pm, 4pm Mad City 6pm,
8.40pm Six Days, Seven Nights
1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.20pm The
Wedding Singer 1pm, 3.50pm, 5.45pm,
8.35pm

KINGSTON

ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409)
BR: Kingston Barney's Great Adventure
1.40pm, 3.50pm, 8.20pm Godzilla
1.30pm, 5pm, 8pm The Little Mermaid
1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm Six Days,
Seven Nights 8.35pm Sliding Doors
8.30pm

MUSWELL HILL

ODEON (0181-315 4217) Highgate
Barney's Great Adventure 12.50pm,
2.35pm, 4.20pm City of Angels 6.50pm,
8.35pm Godzilla 1.50pm, 5.05pm,
8.10pm The Little Mermaid 12.20pm,
2.15pm, 4.25pm Six Days, Seven
Nights 6.25pm, 8.45pm

PECKHAM

PECKHAM PREMIER (0181-335
3005) BR: Peckham Barney's Great
Adventure 12.15pm, 1.55pm, 3.35pm,
4.55pm, 6.55pm, 8.35pm City of
Angels 2.05pm, 4.35pm,
6.55pm, 8.30pm Deep Impact 12.25pm,
Godzilla 12.35pm, 2.30pm, 6.55pm,
8.50pm Grease (20th Anniversary
Edition) 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm The
Little Mermaid 12.20pm, 2.10pm, 4pm
Mad City 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 9.15pm
Seven Nights 6.35pm, 8.50pm, 9.15pm
Soul Food 6.50pm, 9.25pm Thanks 3pm

PURLEY

ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley
Barney's Great Adventure 2.50pm,
4.50pm, 6.50pm, 8.50pm Godzilla
1.45pm, 5pm, 8.15pm The Little
Mermaid 12.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 8.30pm Sliding
Doors 8.40pm

PUTNEY

ABC (0870-9020401) BR: Putney
Barney's Great Adventure 2.15pm,
4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm Godzilla
1.45pm, 5pm, 8.15pm The Little
Mermaid 12.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 8.30pm The
Wedding Singer 8.45pm

RICHMOND

ODEON (0181-315 4218) BR:
Richmond Barney's Great
Adventure 12.30pm, 2.40pm, 4.40pm,
6.40pm, 8.40pm Godzilla 12.30pm,
2.40pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.40pm,
10.40pm Mad City 7pm, 9.30pm Touch
6.45pm, 9.40pm

ROSLAND

ODEON (0181-315 4218) BR:
Richmond Barney's Great
Adventure 12.30pm, 2.40pm, 4.40pm,
6.40pm, 8.40pm Godzilla 12.30pm,
2.40pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.40pm,
10.40pm Mad City 7pm, 9.30pm Touch
6.45pm, 9.40pm

ROMFORD

ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Romford
Barney's Great Adventure 2.10pm,
4.10pm, 6.10pm Godzilla 1.55pm,
4.55pm, 6.55pm, 8.55pm The Little
Mermaid 12.20pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm,
6.15pm Six Days, Seven Nights 8.30pm
Sliding Doors 8.40pm

SIDCUP

ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup
Godzilla 1.30pm, 4.45pm, 8.05pm The
Little Mermaid 1.30pm, 3.35pm, 6pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 8.45pm

STAPLES CORNER

VIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR: Cliche-
wood Barney's Great Adventure
12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm Godzilla
12.15pm, 1.30pm, 3pm, 5.10pm, 6pm,
8pm, 9pm Grease (20th Anniversary
Edition) 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm The
Little Mermaid 12.20pm, 2.15pm, 4.10pm,
6.05pm Mad City 6.15pm, 8.45pm,
9.15pm The Wedding Singer 6pm,
8.30pm

STREATHAM

ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streatham
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)
2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm
Godzilla 1.40pm, 6.20pm The City of
Angels 2.25pm, 4.55pm, 8.35pm
Sliding Doors 4.05pm, 9pm

WATFORD

ODEON (0181-315 4219) BR: Watford
Barney's Great Adventure 1.05pm,
1.55pm, 2.50pm, 4.35pm Godzilla
12.10pm, 3pm, 5pm, 8pm The Little
Mermaid 12.20pm, 2.15pm, 4.10pm,
6.05pm Mad City 6.15pm, 8.45pm,
9.15pm The Wedding Singer 6pm,
8.30pm

WATFORD

ODEON (0181-315 4219) BR: Watford
Barney's Great Adventure 1.05pm,
1.55pm, 2.50pm, 4.35pm Godzilla
12.10pm, 3pm, 5pm, 8pm The Little
Mermaid 12.20pm, 2.15pm, 4.10pm,
6.05pm Mad City 6.15pm, 8.45pm,
9.15pm The Wedding Singer 6pm,
8.30pm

WATFORD

ODEON (0181-315 4219) BR: Watford
Barney's Great Adventure 1.05pm,
1.55pm, 2.50pm, 4.35pm Godzilla
12.10pm, 3pm, 5pm, 8pm The Little
Mermaid 12.20pm, 2.15pm, 4.10pm,
6.05pm Mad City 6.15pm, 8.45pm,
9.15pm The Wedding Singer 6pm,
8.30pm

WATFORD

ODEON (0181-315 4219) BR: Watford
Barney's Great Adventure 1.05pm,
1.55pm, 2.50pm, 4.35pm Godzilla
12.10pm, 3pm, 5pm, 8pm The Little
Mermaid 12.20pm, 2.15pm, 4.10pm,
6.05pm Mad City 6.15pm, 8.45pm,
9.15pm The Wedding Singer 6pm,
8.30pm

WATFORD

ODEON (0181-315 4219) BR: Watford
Barney's Great Adventure 1.05pm,
1.55pm, 2.50pm, 4.35pm Godzilla
12.10pm, 3pm, 5pm, 8pm The Little
Mermaid 12.20pm, 2.15pm, 4.10pm,
6.05pm Mad City 6.15pm, 8.45pm,
9.15pm The Wedding Singer 6pm,
8.30pm

WATFORD

ODEON (0181-315 4219) BR: Watford
Barney's Great Adventure 1.05pm,
1.55pm, 2.50pm, 4.35pm Godzilla
12.10pm, 3pm, 5pm, 8pm The Little
Mermaid 12.20pm, 2.15pm, 4.10pm,
6.05pm Mad City 6.15pm, 8.45pm,
9.15pm The Wedding Singer 6pm,
8.30pm

WATFORD

ODEON (0181-315 4219) BR: Watford
Barney's Great Adventure 1.05pm,
1.55pm, 2.50pm, 4.35pm Godzilla
12.10pm, 3pm, 5pm, 8pm The Little
Mermaid 12.20pm, 2.15pm, 4.10pm,
6.05pm Mad City 6.15pm, 8.45pm,
9.15pm The Wedding Singer 6pm,
8.30pm

WATFORD

ODEON (0181-315 4219) BR: Watford
Barney's Great Adventure 1.05pm,
1.55pm, 2.50pm, 4.35pm Godzilla
12.10pm, 3pm, 5pm, 8pm The Little
Mermaid 12.20pm, 2.15pm, 4.10pm,
6.05pm Mad City 6.15pm, 8.45pm,
9.15pm The Wedding Singer 6pm,
8.30pm

TURNPIKE LANE

CORONET (0181-888 2519)
Turnpike Lane. City of Angels
3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Godzilla
2.30pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm Six Days,
Seven Nights 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

WALTHAMSTOW

ABC (0870-9020424) Walthamstow
Central Barney's Great Adventure
2pm, 4pm, 6pm City of Angels 8.20pm
Godzilla 1.30pm, 4.55pm, 8pm The
Little Mermaid 1.40pm, 3.40pm,
5.40pm Six Days, Seven Nights 8.30pm

WALTON ON THAMES

THE SCREEN AT WALTON
(01932-252825) BR: Walton on Thames
Godzilla 2pm, 5.10pm, 8.05pm Grease
(20th Anniversary Edition) 4.15pm,
6.30pm The Little Mermaid 2.20pm Six
Days, Seven Nights 8.45pm

WILLESDEAN

BELLE-VUE (0181-830 0822)
Willesden Green Six Days, Seven
Nights 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

WIMBLEDON

ODEON (0181-315 4222) BR:
Wimbledon South Wimbledon
Barney's Great Adventure 11.45am,
1.20pm, 2.55pm, 4.30pm City of
Angels 8.30pm Godzilla 10.50am,
1.50pm, 5pm, 8.10pm Grease (20th
Anniversary Edition) 10.45am, 1.05pm,
3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm The Little
Mermaid 11.35am, 1.20pm, 3.10pm,
5pm The Object of My Affection
8.20pm Six Days, Seven Nights
1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm
Sliding Doors 8.45pm The Wedding
Singer 8.45pm

WOOD GREEN

NEW CURZON (0181-347 6664)
Turnpike Lane Duplicate 8pm

WOODFORD

ABC (0181-989 3463) BR: South
Woodford Barney's Great Adventure
2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm City of
Angels 8.20pm Godzilla 1.50pm,
4.55pm, 7.55pm The Little Mermaid
1.55pm, 3.55pm, 5.55pm Six Days,
Seven Nights 8.30pm

WOOLWICH

CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR:
Woolwich Arsenal Godzilla 1.45pm,
5pm, 8.05pm Grease (20th
Anniversary Edition) 1.30pm, 3.50pm,
6.20pm, 8.35pm

CINEMA

REPERTORY

LONDON

ALEXANDRA PALACE:
STARLIGHT OPEN AIR CINEMA
Alexandra Palace Way N22 (0171-604
3100) Reservoir Dogs (18) Gates
open at 6pm, film commences at sunset

CINE LUMIERE AT THE

INSTITUT FRANCAIS Queens-
way Place SW7 (0171-838 2144/2146)
The English Patient (15) 7.30pm

ICA

ICA The Mall SW1 (0171-930 3647)
OUR (NC) 2.30pm, 8.30pm
Wednesday 19.7.1998 (Sred) (NC)
5pm Live Film (18) 7pm The En-
tire History Of The Louisiana Purchase
(NC) 8.30pm

THE LUX HOLIDAY SQUARE

THE LUX HOLIDAY SQUARE N1 (0171-684
0201) Alice Guy-Bliche 1873-1968:
The First Woman Film Maker: Shorts
(NC) 7pm Flaming Creatures (18) 9pm

NFT

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-633 0274)
As Good As It Gets (15) 2.30pm,
8.40pm Tokyo Story (U) 6.10pm Dr
Geldorf And The Girl Bombs: Mario
Bava: Fantasia (NC) 6.15pm Kill
Baby Kill: Mario Bava: Fantasia (NC)
8.45pm

PEPSI IMAX

PEPSI IMAX The Trocadero,
Piccadilly Circus W1 (0171-494 4153)
Across The Sea Of Time - A New Year
Adventure (3-D) (U) 11am, 1.05pm,
5.20pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm, 11.05pm,
12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.30pm,
8.30pm, 10.30pm Mad City 6.10pm,
8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm, 2.30pm,
4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm, 10.45pm,
12.45pm, 2.45pm, 4.45pm, 6.45pm,
8.45pm, 10.45pm, 12.45pm

PRINCE CHARLES

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place
WC2 (0171-437 8181) Red Savage (18)
1pm The Magnificent Seven (PG)
3.30pm The Last Time I Committed
Suicide (15) 6.30pm Gattaca (15) 9pm

RKO

RKO Kingsland High Street E8 (0171-254
6677) Godzilla (PG) 2pm, 5pm, 8pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road
W6 (0181-237 1111)cc 420 0100
Chasing Amy (18) 6.30pm + The
Real Blonde 8.45pm

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High
Street, Brentford, Middx (0181-568
1175) The Little Mermaid (U) 1pm,
3pm Girls' Night (15) 5pm, 9pm
Sliding Doors (15) 7pm

BRIGHTON

DUKE OF YORK'S (01273-626261)
The People Vs Flary Flynn (18) 2pm
+ Crash 4.30pm The General (15)
6.30pm Love And Death On Long
Island (15) 9.15pm

BRISTOL

WATERSHEAD (0117-925 3845)
Point Blank (18) 6pm Port & Cour-
ney (15) 6.05pm Live Flesh (18)
8.15pm Shall We Dance? (PG) 8.25pm

CAMBRIDGE

ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444)
Sliding Doors (15) 2pm, 9pm Barton Fink
(15) 4.30pm Cart & Courney (15)
7.10pm

CARDIFF

CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666)
Les Voleurs (18) 2.30pm, 8pm Bad Behaviour (15)
7.30pm

CHICHESTER

FESTIVAL THEATRE: THE
MINERVA MOVIE FESTIVAL
(01243-781312) The Third Man (PG)
6.30pm Withall & (15) 9pm

IPSWICH

IPSWICH FILM THEATRE (01473-
215544) The Taste Of Cherry (PG)
6.15pm The Big Lebowski (18) 8.15pm
The Real Blonde (15) 8.30pm

NORWICH

CINEMA CITY (01603-622047)
The James Gang (15) 5.45pm Kundun
(12) 8.15pm

PLYMOUTH

ARTS CENTRE (01752-206114)
Marthe - Meet Frank, Daniel &
Laurence (15) 8pm

THEATRE

WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today.

Times and prices for the week, running

times include intervals. ● - Seats at

all prices. ● - Seats at some prices. ●

- Returns only. Matinee - [1] Sun, [3]

Tue, [4] Wed, [5] Thu, [6] Fri, [7] Sat

1.25 MINUTE RIDE Lisa

Kon's one-woman show plies effortlessly
ham comedy to deep pathos. Barbican:
The P.R. Barban Centre, EC2 (0171-638
8891) ● Barbican/Moorgate, Mon-Sat
7.45pm, [5][7] 2.30pm, ends 1 Aug,
£12-£15.

Richard Griffiths, Tony

Haythorn, Malcolm Story in Yasmina
Reza's comedy about art and friendship.
Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, WC2
(0171-369 1736)cc 867 1111 ● Leicester
Sq, Tue-Sat 8pm, [4] 3pm, [7][1] 5pm,
£9.50-£27.50, 90 mins.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Lavish family musical based on Disney's
cartoon version of the favourite fairy tale.
Donmire Tottenham Court Road, W1
(0171-656 1888) ● Tottenham Ct Rd, Mon-
Wed, Fri & Sat 7.30pm, [4], [5][7]
2.30pm, £18.50-£35, 150 mins.

BLOOD BROTHERS

Russell's long-running Liverpool
musical melodrama. Phoenix Charing
Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733)
● Leicester Sq/Tot Ct Rd, Mon-Sat 7.45pm,
[5] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £10.50-£29.50,
165 mins.

BUDDY Musical blog-show

tracing the brief life of Buddy Holly. Strand
Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800)
● Covent Garden/Charing X, Tue-Thu
8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5pm &
8.30pm, mats [1] 4pm, £6.75-£30,
160 mins.

CATS

Willy Russell's musical version of TS
Eliot's poems. New London Park Theatre,
WC2 (0171-405 0055) ● Covent Gar-
den/Holborn, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [9][7]
3pm, £12.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

CHICAGO

Ruthie Henshall stars
in this hit Broadway musical.
Adelphi Maiden Lane, WC2 (0171-344
0055) ● Charing X, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [9][7]
2.30pm, £16-£36 (incl booking fee),
130 mins.

CLOSER

Superb study of
contemporary sexual relationships from
Dealer's Choice author Patrick Marber.
Lyric Shaftsbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494
5045) ● Pic Cric, Mon-Sat 7.30pm,
[4][7] 3pm, £7.50-£27.50, 140 mins.

THE COMPLETE WORKS

OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
(ABRIDGED) Reduced Shakespeare
Company fast-forward through 37 plays.
Criterion Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-
369 1747) ● Pic Cric, Wed-Sat 8pm,
[5] 3pm, [7] 5pm, [1] 4pm, £9.50-£20,
120 mins.

DR DOLITTLE

Phillip Schofield
talks to the animals in this new stage
adaptation featuring Jim Henson Puppets.
Labatt's Apollo Hammersmith Queens
Caroline Street, W6 (0171-416 6022)
● Hammersmith, Mon-Sat 7.30pm,
[4][7] 2.30pm, £10-£32.50, 150 mins.

GENTLEMEN PREFER

BLONDES Seta Crowe stars in the
musical featuring the songs Diamonds Are
A Girl's Best Friend. Open Air Regent's
Park, NW1 (0171-486 2437)cc 486
1933) ● Baker Street, Today 2.30pm &
8pm, ends 1 Sept, £8-£20.

GREASE

Marissa Onip stars
in the stage version of the hit film.
Cambridge Earls Court, WC2 (0171-
494 5080) ● Covent Garden, Mon-Sat
7.30pm, [4][7] 3pm, £10-£30,
150 mins.

HOW I LEARNED TO

DRIVE Paula Vogel's drama about the
incestuous relationship between a
teenager and her uncle. Deamur
Warehouse Earls Court, WC2 (0171-
369 1732) ● Covent Garden, Mon-Sat
8pm, [5][7] 4pm, ends 8 Aug, £12-£16,
90 mins.

THE ICEMAN COMETH

Kevin Spacey stars in Eugene O'Neill's
classic play about the power of dreams.
Old Vic The Old Vic, SE1 (0171-838 7616)cc
420 0000 ● Rye/Waterloo, Mon-Sat
7pm, [7] 1.30pm, ends 1 Aug, £5-£30,
180 mins.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND

Christopher Cazenove and Kate O'Mara
in Peter Hall's acclaimed production of
Wilde's comedy. Albery St Martin's
Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730)cc 867
1111) ● Leicester Sq, Mon-Sat 7.30pm,
[5] 3pm, [7] 4pm, ends 22 Aug, £7.50-
£29.50, 165 mins.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS

Stephen Oadly's widely-acclaimed
production of J.B. Priestley's thriller.
Barrick Charing Cross Road, WC2
(0171-494 5085) ● Leicester Sq, Mon-Fri
7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7]
5pm, £10.50-£25, 110 mins.

KAT AND THE KINGS

Musical set in 1950s Cape Town.
Vaudeville Strand, WC2 (0171-836
9987) ● Rye/Waterloo, Mon-Sat 7.30pm,
Fri-Sat 5.30pm & 8.30pm, ends 1 Aug,
£6.25-£27.50, 130 mins.

A LETTER OF

RESIGNATION Hugh Whithore's
play about the Profumo affair and political
morality. Savoy Strand, WC2 (0171-
636 8880)cc 836 0479) ● Charing
X/Embankment, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4]
3pm, [7] 4pm,

WEDNESDAY RADIO

RADIO 1
(97.9-98.9MHz FM)
6.30 Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball
9.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Jo
Whaley. 3.00 Dave Pearce. 6.30
Steve Lamacq. 8.30 Mark Ker-
mode. 8.40 John Peel. 10.30
Mary Anne Hobbs. 1.00 Clive War-
ren. 4.00 - 6.30 Chris Moyles.

RADIO 2
(88.0-92.0MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake
Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce.
12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed
Stewart. 5.05 John Dunn. 7.00
Nick Barracough. 8.00 Mike Har-
ning. 9.00 Daryl Hall and John
Oates - the Celebrity Soul Show.
10.00 Top of the Pops on 2. 10.30
Richard Ainsworth. 12.05 Steve Mac-
don. 3.00 - 4.00 Alex Lester.

RADIO 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air.
9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Proms Artist of the Week.
11.00 Sound Stories.
12.00 Proms Composer of the
Week: Szymanowski.
1.00 Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert.
2.00 BBC Proms 98.
4.00 Choral Evensong.
5.00 In Tune.
7.30 BBC Proms 98. Live from the
Royal Albert Hall, London. The
mood of Tchaikovsky's heart-rend-
ing symphony, impassioned and in-
tense, is echoed by that master of
orchestral colour Henri Dutilleul in a
new work setting fragments from
"The Diary of Anne Frank". In con-
trast, Poulenc's "Gloria" is all exuber-
ance and gaiety. Alison Hagley
(soprano), Edward Burrows (triple-
ble), Chester Festival Chorus, Lon-
don Philharmonic Choir, BBC
Philharmonic, Yan Pascal Tortelier.
Poulenc: Gloria. Henri Dutilleul:
Shadows of Time (UK premiere).
8.20 Fifth Thoughts. Stephen
Johnson talks to Gerard McBurney
and Stan Edwards about
Tchaikovsky's much misunderstood
Fifth Symphony.
8.40 Concert, part 2. Tchaikovsky:
Symphony No 5 in E minor.
9.50 Postscript. A five-part enter-
tainment compiled by and starring
Maureen Lipman, recreating mono-
logues, sketches and songs origi-
nally written and performed by
comedian Joyce Grenfell. Featur-

PICK OF THE DAY

IN 1549, AN army of 20,000 rebels
marched on Norwich; in the
battle that followed, 3,000 were
killed. The cause of all the trouble
was the planting of hedges; in
Rural Lives (11am R4), Les
Woodland argues that hedgerows
created a new division between the
land-owning farmer and the
landless labourer, and traces that
division down to the present day.
A series of debates in appropriate



ROBERT HANKS

ing 'Thursdays', in which a wrong
number nearly turns into a blind
date; and a poignant song, 'Dear
Francis', with music by Richard
Adkinsell. Plus Grenfell's letters to
Virginia Graham. (R)
10.05 Bel Canto. Nocturnes per-
formed by the violinist Ruggiero
Ricci, who celebrates his eightieth
birthday this week.
10.30 Gershwin in Focus. To
Gershwin, his show tunes were as
important as his concert works and
he saw no contradiction in writing
both. Pianist Jack Gibbons follows
Gershwin's development as a com-
poser and reveals the close stylistic
relationship between the works for
Broadway, the works for Hollywood
and the music for concert hall. With
illustrations at the keyboard and
from original recordings. With Ben
Kingsley as Gershwin.
11.30 Jazz Notes.
12.00 Proms Composer of the
Week: Rameau. (R)
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.
RADIO 4
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today.
9.00 Mothers and Sons.
9.30 The Sale of the Century.
9.45 Serial: Master Musicians.
10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour.
11.00 NEWS: Rural Lives.
See Pick of the Day.
11.30 Frank Muir - a Kentish Lad
Remembered.
12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.
1.00 The World at One.
1.30 Wordly Wise. (R)
2.00 NEWS: The Archers.

**2.15 Afternoon Play: A Little
Princess.**
3.00 NEWS: Gardeners' Question
Time.
3.30 Pillars of the Community.
3.45 I Take Back My Country.
4.00 NEWS: Four Walls.
4.30 Thinking Allowed.
5.00 PM.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.30 Audio Diaries. (R)
7.00 NEWS: The Archers.
7.15 Front Row. Francine Stock
chairs the night arts programme.
7.45 Under One Roof: Summer
Holiday. By Michele Hanson and
Jenny Landreth. (3/5).
8.00 NEWS: Straw Poll. The first of
four debates on issues of perennial
interest, chaired by Justin Webb. 1:
'A language authority is essential for
preserving standards in English'.
From the Oxford University Press.
Oxford. See Pick of the Day.
8.45 War without Shooting. After a
month of soccer battles and World
Cup mania, American writer and
broadcaster Bill Buford reflects on
George Orwell's description of foot-
ball as 'war without shooting'.
9.00 NEWS: Lifelines. Three pro-
grammes about people with a pas-
sion for science. 2: When the police
cannot find a killer, amateur sleuth
Charlie Parker steps in. Armed with
the latest in forensic technology, his
organisation is helping to bring
murderers to justice in the south
Texas town of San Antonio.
9.30 Mothers and Sons. Revela-
tions are aired as Times columnist
Matthew Parris and his mother, Ter-
ry Parris, interview each other and
her son Marc Beers.
10.00 The World Tonight.
10.45 Book at Bedtime: A Patch-
work Planet. By Anne Tyler,
abridged by Pat McLoughlin, read
by William Hope. Barnaby Galtin is
nearly 30, divorced, directionless
and the black sheep of his philan-
thropic Baltimore family. He also
has a heart of gold. (3/5).
11.00 Trust Me, I'm a Policeman. In
Robert Smith's six-part drama, John
Woodvine is Detective Sergeant
Matrix, who takes a reluctant work-
experience youth on a stakeout and
passes the time with highly unreli-
able tales of police work. 2: 'Marzi-
pan'. With David Antrobus and Jan
Winters. Director Ned Chailat.
11.15 Stereonation.
11.30 The Mark Steel Revolution.
12.00 News.
12.30 Late Book: Arcanum. (R)
12.48 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 As World Service.
5.30 World News.
5.35 Shipping Forecast.
5.40 Inshore Forecast.
5.45 Prayer for the Day.
5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

12.00 The Midday News.
1.00 Ruscoe and Co.
4.00 Nationwide.
7.00 News Extra.
7.30 Will Carling's World of Athlet-
ics. The former England rugby
union captain discusses the state
of athletics in Britain and around
the world, with leading figures from
the sport. Call and have your say
on 0500 909893.
9.00 Proulx's Hoops. American
comedian Greg Proulx continues
his journey through the amazing
history of basketball and travels to
Indiana, home of Hoosier Hoops.
9.30 A Tour Remembered. On the
eve of the Trent Bridge Test, Peter
Baker recalls the South African
tour of 1965, which featured one of
the great Trent Bridge innings.
10.00 Late Night Live. With Nick
Robinson, including a late news
briefing at 11.00, and at 11.15 The Fi-
nancial World Tonight and a topical
late-night discussion.
1.00 Up All Night.
5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.
CLASSIC FM
(100.1-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Michael Mappin. 8.00 Henry
Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Con-
certo. 3.00 Jamie Crook. 6.30
Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics
at Seven. 8.00 Evening Concert.
11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto.
3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.
VIRGIN RADIO
(25.187-26.044MHz MW 105.8MHz FM)
7.00 Jonathan Ross. 10.00 Russ
Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00
Robin Banks/FM only Ray Cokes
from 6.45pm. 7.30 Ray Cokes.
10.00 Mark Forrest. 2.00 Peter
Poulton. 5.00 Jeremy Clark.
WORLD SERVICE
(198kHz LW)
1.00 News. 1.30 From Our
Own Correspondent. 1.45 Britain
Today. 2.00 News. 2.30 Om-
nibus. 3.00 News. 3.30 Mari-
an (Boots). 4.00 News. 4.05
Business Report. 4.15 Sports.
4.30 - 7.00 The World Today.
TALK RADIO
7.00 New Talk Radio Breakfast
Show. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 11.00
Lorraine Kelly. 1.00 Anna Ra-
burn. 3.00 Tommy Boyd. 5.00
Peter Daeley. 7.00 Nick Abbot.
9.00 James Whitley. 1.00 Ian
Collins. 5.00 - 7.00 Bill Overton.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

WILLIAM HARTSTON

ULF ANDERSSON was one of the
world's leading players in the Sev-
enties and early Eighties with a
reputation for being particularly
good at avoiding defeat. He once
went more than 100 games with a
loss. Possessing phenomenal
patience, he also revelled in playing
games of great length in which
nothing much seemed to be hap-
pening for long periods.
At the end of this week, Ulf will
celebrate his 47th birthday, which
puts him firmly into the veteran
class among the young grand-
masters of today, yet in the past few
years he has been enjoying a wel-
come comeback with some excel-
lent results in international
tournaments. As the following
game from this month's Keres
Memorial Tournament in Estonia
shows, he has even developed a
fine spirit of adventure.

the white centre pawns advanced
and they never recovered from the
shock. At the end, 48... Kh5 49.Be2+
or 48... Rg6 49.fg6 wins for White.

White: U Andersson
Black: T Seeman
Parnu 1998

1 Nf3 Nf6 25 Bb3 Qd8
2 d4 g6 26 Qe3 Qe7
3 g3 Bg7 27 Kg2 h5
4 Bg2 0-0 28 g5 Nh7
5 0-0 d6 29 Rg1 Ra7
6 Re1 Nbd7 30 Rd1 f6
7 e4 e5 31 gxf6 Qxf6
8 Nc3 Re8 32 Kh2 Kf8
9 h3 c6 33 Nxe5 Qxe5
10 a4 Qe7 34 f4 Qe7
11 Bc3 b6 35 e5 Nf6
12 Qd2 Bb7 36 Qd4 h4
13 Bf5 a6 37 Ne2 Nf4
14 Rad1 b5 38 Rxe6 Qh7
15 Bxg7 Kxg7 39 f5 Ng3
16 Re3 b4 40 Nxf3 hxf3+
17 Ne2 c5 41 Rxf3 Rg3
18 d5 a5 42 e6 Rxf3
19 g4 c4 43 Qf6+ Kg8
20 Ng3 Nc5 44 Qd8+ Kg7
21 h5 b4 45 Qe7+ Kg8
22 Bf1 c3 46 Qe8+ Kg7
23 Qc1 Rb8 47 Qf7+ Kh6
24 Re1 Bc8 48 Qf6+ resigns

BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

YOU WOULD have thought that a
declarer in a vulnerable grand
slam would plan the play carefully
but South, thinking that it was all
too easy, played quickly. Why
should I have worried? I was hold-
ing the West cards and, as a result,
was one of his beneficiaries.
South opened One No-trump
(15-17 points) and North launched
immediately into a Gerber enquiry
with Four Clubs. South showed his
ace with Four hearts and now
North bid Four No-trumps. This set
his partner a problem: was this
too quantitative, or asking for
kings? With a maximum for his
One No-trump, he moved on with
Five Clubs and, to avoid further con-
fusion, North jumped to Seven No-
trumps.

Game all; dealer South

North		East	
♠ A Q 10	♠ A Q 5	♠ J 9 5 4	♠ J 9 5 4
♥ Q 7	♥ Q 7	♥ 10 6 2	♥ 10 6 2
♦ A Q 9 7 4	♦ A Q 9 7 4	♦ 5 4 3 2	♦ 5 4 3 2
♣ J 8 5	♣ J 8 5	♣ 10 2	♣ 10 2

South

♠ K 7 6 3	♠ K 7 6 3
♥ K 9 7 3	♥ K 9 7 3
♦ A K J	♦ A K J
♣ K 3	♣ K 3

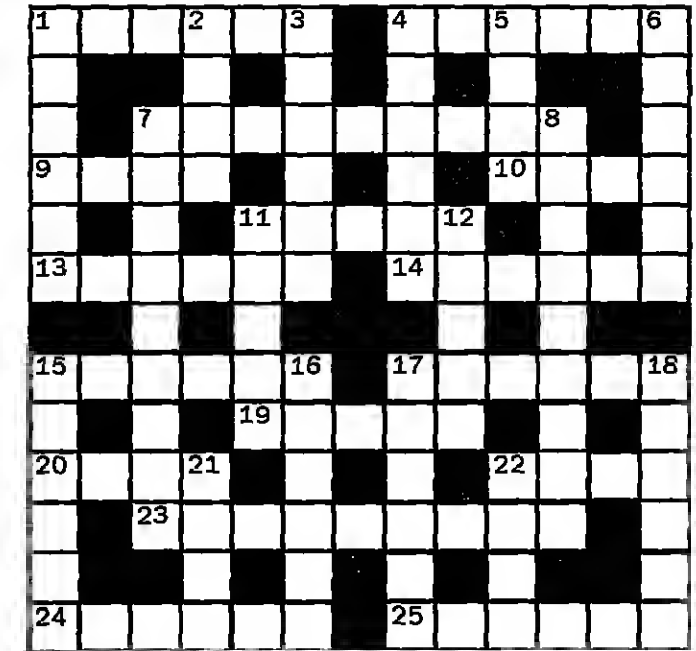
four spades. This was right in the-
ory (♠ J might have fallen in two)
but wrong in practice, and partner
and I were greatly relieved to col-
lect 100 points on the outing.
Rather gloomily, I led ♠ 10 and
declarer found himself looking at 12
top tricks. An even break in any of
spades, hearts or clubs would give
him a 13th and there could well be
squeeze chances. After winning the
lead in hand with ♠ K, South
decided to test the clubs first, but
East threw a diamond on the third
round. Suddenly South had a prob-
lem: what should be discarded?
Time ticked away before he
finally threw a heart and saved his

PUZZLE

HOW DO the following two lists of
numbers continue?
A: 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10, 15, 16, 17, ...
B: 4, 5, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, ...
and how do these go on:
C: 1, 3, 4, 7, 12, 14, 15, 17, 20, ...
D: 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, 19, ...
(Answers tomorrow)

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No. 3569 Wednesday 22 July



- ACROSS**
- Guard (6)
 - Evasions (6)
 - Drinking establishment (6,3)
 - Animal fat (4)
 - Gift out cards (4)
 - Furtive (6)
 - Widespread (9)
 - Geometrical figure (9)
 - Aspect of coin (5)
 - Artist's support (5)
 - Lie in wait for (6)
 - Makes more beloved (6)
 - In this direction (6)
 - Convent superior (6)
 - Hard wood (4)
 - Socially pretentious person (4)
- DOWN**
- Mariner (8)
 - Dull sound (4)
 - Cowardy (6)
 - Front (6)
 - Give out cards (4)
 - Furtive (6)
 - Widespread (9)
 - Geometrical figure (9)
 - Aspect of coin (5)
 - Artist's support (5)
 - Lie in wait for (6)
 - Makes more beloved (6)
 - In this direction (6)
 - Convent superior (6)
 - Hard wood (4)
 - Socially pretentious person (4)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:
ACROSS: 1 Cune; 2 Oddities (Commodities); 3 Badge; 49 Deplure; 11 Rosh; 13 Dachs-
hund; 14 Canid; 16 Repair; 18 Canal boat; 20 Eat; 22 Letters; 23 Utter; 25 Dikar; 26
Spod; DOWN: 1 Ciber; 2 Mad; 4 Dado; 5 Impose; 6 Inoculate; 7 Slender; 8 Read; 12
Benknots; 14 Carried; 15 Illice; 17 Mousse; 19 Tour; 21 Tured; 24 Tip.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

DESCRIBED BY Time Out as
"Roy of the Rovers meets
Emmerdale". When Saturday
Comes (12.10am Sky Movies
Screen 1) is a post-Fever Pitch
football movie with Sean Bean
(right). He stars as an ambitious
amateur determined to play for
his local team, Sheffield United.
Ironically, United were lucky to be
promoted to the Premiership last
season and are strong favourites for
relegation; parallel themes of
over-promotion and subsequent



PETER CONNOR

C Clarke's Mysterious Universe
(9303006). 6.00 Survivors (8644444).
9.00 Survivors: Great Escapes
(4528938). 9.30 Survivors: Survivor
(7648396). 10.00 Wonders of Weather
(7648396). 10.30 Wonders of Weather
(7648396). 11.00 Outcasts (2640267).
12.30 Top Mercur (7648396). 1.00 Prison
Life (5374897). 2.00 Close.
SKY 1
3.00 Tattooed Teenage Alien Fighters
from Beverly Hills (86532). 3.30 Street
Sharks (86803). 5.00 Garfield and
Friends (81993). 9.30 The Simpsons
(4776). 10.00 Games World (3372990).
10.35 Games World (3372990). 11.30
Just Kiddin' (81997). 11.00 The New Ad-
ventures of Superman (86464). 12.00
Married with Children (89919). 12.30
M*A*S*H (892739). 12.55 The Special K
Collection (8625848). 1.00 Gekko
(845006). 1.35 The Special K Collection
(8625848). 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael
(894729). 2.55 The Special K Collection
(8625848). 3.00 Jerry Jones (863984).
3.35 The Special K Collection (8625848).
4.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (86445).
5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (8342). 6.00
The Nanny (8603). 6.30 Married with
Children (8629). 7.00 The Simpsons
(8071). 7.30 Real TV (8677). 8.00 Star-
gate SG-1 (70399). 9.00 Outer Limits
(50532). 10.00 Caribbean Uncovered
(80919). 11.00 Star Trek: Voyager

(76629). 12.00 Nash Bridges (86656).
1.00 - 8.00 Long Bridges (81255).
SKY SPORTS 1
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (850754). 7.15
World Wrestling Federation Live Wire
(457919). 8.35 Sky Sports Centre
(443194). 9.30 Racing News (40700).
9.40 Aerobics - Oz Style (37280). 9.30
Embassy World Eight-Ball Championships
(85151). 11.30 Soccer Sevens (86292).
12.30 Tales from the Premiership: The
Great Survivors (86292). 1.00 Cricket -
AXA Life League Warwickshire v Essex
(86149). 2.30 Fastrax (776). 3.00
Nascar Kentucky 300 (7844). 5.00
World Wrestling Federation Shot Gun
(86149). 6.45 Soccer Sevens (86292).
6.30 Tales from the Premiership: On a
Shoestring (86292). 7.00 European Tour
Magazine (5613). 7.30 Full Throttle
(2209). 8.00 Snooker (4754). 10.00 Sky
Sports Centre (850754). 10.35 Tales from
the Premiership: On a Shoestring
(86292). 11.00 Soccer Sevens (86292).
11.45 Sky Sports Centre (40699).
12.00 World of Super League with Eddie
and Steve (84471). 2.00 Samsung Esprit
(33855). 2.30 Watersports World (26149).
3.30 Tales from the Premiership: On a
Shoestring (86292). 4.00 Sky Sports
Centre (850754). 4.35 Close.
SKY SPORTS 2
7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (7007280).
7.30 Sky Sports Centre (8365716). 7.45
Racing News (5245209). 8.35 Tales from

the Premiership: The Great Survivors
(2640267). 8.45 Sky Sports Centre
(2455942). 9.00 Soccer Sevens
(86292). 9.30 Nascar Kentucky 300
(86149). 10.00 Equestrianism - ATCO
Double Slalom (865613). 1.00 Beach
Volleyball (700591). 1.30 Sports Unli-
mited (86292). 2.00 Golf Extra
(729019). 4.30 Snooker (849067).
6.30 The Winning Post (232077). 6.30
Golf Extra (700591). 10.30 Water-
sports World (853919). 11.30 European
Tour Weekly (301773). 12.00 Full Thro-
tle (559901). 12.30 Sky Sports Centre
(850754). 1.00 Soccer Sevens (86292).
1.45 Tales from the Premiership: On a
Shoestring (86292). 1.45 Sky Sports
Centre (850754). 2.00 Close.
SKY SPORTS 3
12.00 Wrestling (889884). 1.00 Fish
TV (852386). 1.30 Fish TV Fishing
TV (852386). 2.00 Superstars
George Forman v Tommy Morrison
(862708). 3.00 Second Inning: Wa-
gner Younts (407919). 3.30 Major League
Baseball - Game of the Week (834280).
5.30 Watersports World (853919). 7.00
Soccer Sevens (852386). 8.00 World of
Super League with Eddie and Steve
(729019). 10.00 Sports (852386).
10.30 Dicksie Davies's Sporting Heroes
(864470). 11.30 Close.
EUROSPORT
7.30 Motorcycling (39718). 9.00 Cy-
cling: Tour de France (78938). 11.00 Cy-
cling: Tour de France (217784). 4.30
Tennis (86984). 6.00 Speedworld
(33716). 7.00 Football (2445). 10.00 Cy-
cling: Tour de France (7215). 11.00
Speedworld (86984). 12.00 Four-Wheel
Drive (8656). 12.30 Close.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC
N IRELAND As BBC1 London except:
6.30 - 7.00 Newsline 6.30
SCOTLAND As BBC1 London except:
6.00 News 6.30 - 7.00 Reporting
Scotland; Weather
WALES As BBC1 London except: 6.30 -
7.00 Wales Today 10.45 European
Football Newsworld Wales 11.25
Welsh Questions 11.55 Film: 85 Hours
TI Dam 1.30 - 6.00 BBC News 24
ANGLIA
As Carlton except: 10.20 Anglia
News and Weather (226853). 10.35
Justice of the Land (752029). 11.25
Blue Heelers (813822). 12.20 Anglia
News and Weather (419191). 1.00
Dinosaurs (37716). 1.30 Home and Away
(79292). 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show
(250015). 3.20 Anglia News (819464).
5.30 Shortland Street (823371). 6.00
Home and Away (82745). 6.25 Anglia
News (81919). 10.00 ITN News.
Weather (5684). 10.30 Anglia News
and Weather (25735). 10.45 Film:
Cookie (2378199). 12.40 Film: White
Hot: the Mysterious Murder of Thelma
Todd (83588). 4.00 Making Contact

(87985). 4.30 ITV Nightscreen (83588).
5.00 Coronation Street (40149).
CENTRAL
As Carlton except: 10.20 Central
News (757894). 12.20 Central News
and Weather (419191). 12.30 ITN
News: Weather (70358). 1.00 A Country
Practice (37716). 3.20 Central News
(819464). 5.00 Shortland Street
(823371). 6.00 Home and Away
(82745). 6.25 Central News and
Weather (81919). 10.30 Central News,
Weather and Travel Update (24443).
10.40 Millionaires (54025). 11.00 Party
in the Park (41232). 12.45 Tales from
the Dark Side (4071). 4.00 Jobfinder
(863453). 5.20 Asian Eye (823585).
HTV WALES
As Carlton except: 10.20 HTV
News (757894). 12.20 HTV News
(819191). 1.00 Shortland Street (37716).
1.30 Home and Away (79292). 2.00
The Jerry Springer Show (250015).
3.20 HTV News (819464). 6.00 Yen
Can Cook - the Best of China (823371).
6.30 Home and Away (82745). 6.25
Wales Tonight (81919). 10.30 HTV
News (81919). 10.45 Film: White
Hot: the Mysterious Murder of Thelma
Todd (83588). 12.40 Film: White Hot: the

Mysterious Murder of Thelma Todd
(83588). 4.00 Making Contact
(87985). 4.30 ITV Nightscreen (83588).
5.00 Coronation Street (40149).
HTV WEST
As HTV Wales except: 5.30
Kidsult (823371). 6.00 HTV West
Weather (823371). 6.30 The West (777).
MERIDIAN
As Carlton except: 10.20 Meridian
News and Weather (226853). 10.35
Justice of the Land (752029). 11.25
Blue Heelers (813822). 12.20 Meridian
News and Weather (419191). 1.00
Shortland Street (37716). 1.30 Home
and Away (79292). 2.00 The Jerry
Springer Show (250015). 3.20 Meridian
News and Weather (819464). 5.37
Three Minutes - Freescan (86044).
6.00 Meridian Tonight (735). 6.30
Crown and Country (777). 10.30
Meridian News and Weather (226853).
10.45 The Road Show (300771). 11.35
The Drew Carey Show (820701). 11.45
Renege (21454). 12.40 Film: White
Hot: the Mysterious Murder of Thelma
Todd (83588). 4.00 Making Contact
(87985). 4.30 ITV Nightscreen (83588).
5.00 Freescan (40149).

WESTCOUNTRY
As Carlton except: 10.20
Westcountry News (757894). 10.30 A
Woman Named Jackie (250015).
12.15 Westcountry News (226853). 1.00
Emmerdale (37716). 3.20 Westcountry
Live (819464). 6.00 Westcountry Live
(819464). 10.30 Second Inning: Wa-
gner Younts (407919). 3.30 Major League
Baseball - Game of the Week (834280).
5.30 Watersports World (853919). 7.00
Soccer Sevens (852386). 8.00 World of
Super League with Eddie and Steve
(729019). 10.00 Sports (852386).
10.30 Dicksie Davies's Sporting Heroes
(864470). 11.30 Close.
YORKSHIRE
As Carlton except: 10.20 Calendar
News and Weather (757894). 12.20
Vernon Menard Jackie (250015).
1.00 Home and Away; Jesse and Mard
agree to stay friends. Joy thinks he
may be able to help Chlo (2586087).
1.25 Jerry Springer (819464). 2.00
Emmerdale (37716). 3.20 Calendar
News (819464). 5.40 News (800936).
5.55 Calendar (82754). 6.30 Tonight
(777). 10.30 Calendar News; Weather
(24443). 10.40 Party in the Park
(86292). 11.40 Antony and Disater
(307261). 4.20 Jobfinder (8332168).

TYNE TEES
As Yorkshire except: 10.20 North
East News and Weather (757894).
12.20 North East News (422867).
12.25 Joblink (422868). 3.20 North
East News and Weather (819464). 5.55
North East Weather (757894). 6.00
Ricki Lake (864). 5.00 5 Pump: United 5
(833). 5.30 Countdown (804). 6.00
East News and Weather (24443).
10.40 Magnetic North (86292).
S4C
As Channel 4 except: 12.30 Ricki
Lake (8670). 4.00 St Melthyn: Ty
Chwih a Sml y Ci (83358). 1.30
Collectors' Lot (823208). 1.50 Film:
Dentist on the Job (8453848). 4.30
Ricki Lake (864). 5.00 5 Pump: United 5
(833). 5.30 Countdown (804). 6.00
Newyddion 6 (838919). 6.40 Heno
(863803). 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (867735).
7.25 gaeaf (77077). 8.00 Y Sioe Fawr
(7087). 8.30 Newyddion (8622). 9.00
Tour de France (819464). 9.20 Friends
(819464). 10.00 Brookside. Jimmy is
pleased to get a teaching job. Katie
wonders if Alice is bonding with the
baby (40175). 10.35 Alf McBeal
(80773). 11.30 Armistead Mauphi's
Tales of the City (3368). 1.20 Lonely
Planet (8385). 2.00 Close.

